

# ILLUSTRATED TIMES

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## AIDS TO SELF-HELP.

THEY do but greenly who exercise their benevolence so as to undermine men's self-respect and sense of personal responsibility; while they afford the best kind of help who give men the opportunity of helping themselves. We used to hear, and we hear occasionally still, a great deal of talk about elevating the working man, and much honest, if mistaken, effort was expended to that end. But little ever came of either. There was too much advice, too much patronage—too much of the eleemosynary element—too much patting on the back and “my good man”-ing—too much treating of grown men as children—in that kind of effort for it to be successful. Genuine working men are as desirous of elevation as any other class; but they dislike patronage and they abhor charity. All they ask is fair opportunities. The rest they can do, and ought to be left to do, for themselves; that is, if they are made of the stuff that is worth elevating at all; and, if they are not, no effort whatever will raise them. Honest industry and worthy ambition scorn canting patronage and spurn the pauper's dole; however thickly those nauseous pills may be sugared over. Almsgiving and charitable institutions are not for lusty manhood but for decrepid age or impotent feebleness. Hitherto philanthropists have not fully realised this, and hence the failure that has attended most efforts at “elevation.” They have been anxious to confer boons, not to afford opportunities, and their boons have generally come back to them barren.

Better light, however, is beginning to break upon the public mind in these matters. Men nowadays don't found hospitals to maintain people who can and ought to maintain themselves, nor endow schools to educate the children of parents who have ample means, if they choose, to do their own work; indeed, we are beginning to recognise the fact that where such institutions exist their benefits are generally abused and misapplied. Benevolent effort takes the direction now, not of charity—giving a thing for nothing—but of providing an article required and charging a fair price for it. Efforts to do good may thus be both benevolent in their design and profitable in their result. By combining kindness with commerce, stimulating benevolence by the prospect of a dividend, we confer a real boon, do a real good, and yet in no degree vitiate the recipient's self-respect and self-reliance. Enabling a man to do his own work in the world is a very different thing from doing it for him. The one is beneficial, the other is injurious; the one will succeed, the other must fail. In former times benevolent societies were formed for the purpose of taking duty off people's hands; the institutions we establish now aim only at helping the worker with his task, or, rather, at removing impediments from his way. This is by far the most salutary course.

The institution of Post-office savings banks and granting small Government annuities are two ways in which of late we have endeavoured to give aids to self-help. Building comfortable dwellings for the working classes, and charging fair rents for them, is another means by which the same object is attained in a wholesome way. In none of these movements is there any taint of the eleemosynary element. A certain advantage is offered, and a certain price charged for the

cessors, will be as useful in future as in present times. It is true that money devoted to house-building for the working-classes is not so highly reproductive as are some other kinds of investment; but it is safe, and yields at least a fair profit. There is a large demand for the article, and the speculation of providing it can be made to pay. The dwellings are occupied as soon as finished, and rents are punctually paid.

This state of things may well encourage Government to lend public help to so excellent an object, and we trust that the bill introduced into Parliament the other night by Mr. Childers will at once pass, and be the means by-and-by of accomplishing much good. The purpose of that bill is to authorise the Treasury to lend money, at moderate interest, to companies like that presided over by Mr. Alderman Waterlow. A fine field is opening for enterprise of this kind. The destruction of houses consequent on the making of railways in large towns, and the carrying out of other municipal improvements, is rendering house accommodation scarce. Workmen and their families must be lodged somewhere, and, when dispossessed of existing holdings, they will gladly become the tenants of dwellings built by Mr. Peabody's trustees and with the aid of the funds furnished on loan by the Treasury. Working men are every day becoming better able to pay for comfortable houses; and with improved means will arise the desire for improved homes; a feeling that is worthy of all encouragement.

For these reasons we hail with satisfaction the movement for erecting improved dwellings for the industrious classes, upon the sound principle of making them pay. There is, it seems, a difficulty in obtaining sites. Most of the ground within the metropolis is already appropriated, and workmen's houses, of course, must not be too far afield. But why should not the Peabody trustees and the directors of building companies commence a career of improvement on their own account? Why leave all the demolition to be done by the railway companies? Why not buy up some of the many dilapidated tenements now in existence, and erect wholesome struc-

tures on their sites? There are in London whole lanes, streets—nay, quarters—which are perfect sinks of foulness, physical and moral—nests of disease and nurseries of crime—the tenements on which can be of comparatively little value, and the removal of which would greatly improve the atmosphere in every respect. Why not go to work upon these spots, and sweep away the rotten rookeries which now cumber them? The operation would certainly pay, and would infallibly be beneficial.

We have left ourselves but little space in which to refer to other modes of affording the means of self-help to those who



THE LATE JOHN GIBSON, R.A.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY J. AND C. WATKINS.)

accommodation. Both parties are benefited. The depositor in the savings bank, the Government annuitant, the tenant of a model lodging, gives an equivalent for what he receives—he makes a purchase; he pays for a service; he does not take alms; and, at the same time, a profit is obtained by serving him. The principle on which the trustees of Mr. Peabody's magnificent gift are administering the fund is a sound one, because it aims at making the investment remunerative. The system of management adopted creates a recuperative power which will go on increasing to an indefinite extent. And the efforts of Lord Stanley and his colleagues, and of their suc-



have difficulty in providing those means for themselves. But we must at least mention one or two other schemes which have been broached. One of these is to form an assurance-against-accident association for working men, to be mainly, if not wholly, self-supporting. It is urged, and with reason, that when great calamities occur—such as the Hartley Colliery catastrophe and the sinking of the London—public sympathy is awakened and large subscriptions are made for the relief of the sufferers, but that no account is taken of the daily accidents which leave some family as truly destitute as the victims of an explosion or the foundering of a ship. And it is proposed that an association should be formed to provide for such everyday contingencies. This idea is good, if the principle of self-help be made the cardinal point in the scheme; but if 'tis not well done, 'twere better left undone. Let such an association be formed; but let those for whose benefit it is designed be the principal subscribers to its funds. Then there is the institution just formed for the benefit of ballet girls, one feature of which is that the "fairies" must themselves be members and pay their subscriptions ere they can derive benefit. This idea, too, is good; but why limit it to a class? Why not extend the area of operation to all working women who are willing to join the movement? Ballet girls are not usually exclusively employed in theatres; they follow other occupations as well. And working women in whatsoever sphere are as worthy of having aids to self-help extended to them. Why not institute a general working women's friendly society; aided, if you like, by others, but mainly supported by the working women themselves? Such an institution would save the poor from the impositions practised upon them by so-called benefit clubs, which are but too often mere swindles, the benefits of which are reaped by the getters-up and managers, and not by the subscribers. Such a society would be a real aid to self-help for thousands of hard-working and often unprotected females.

#### THE LATE JOHN GIBSON, R.A.

JOHN GIBSON, the most eminent sculptor, perhaps, that has lived since the days of Canova and Thorwaldsen, whose death took place at Rome a fortnight since, began life as an art-student in a way that would now be regarded as very humble—that is, in the workshop of a cabinetmaker. But we must not overlook the fact that cabinet-making, like carving and gilding, was in those days a much more artistic business than it is at present. Firms were few, but eminent. Influence and talent for design were needed in order to secure admission into the cabinet workshops of those days. A boy was required to have a talent for drawing, to make studies of foliage as a preparation for future compositions in ornamental furniture. Sixty years ago the cabinet carvers' workshops, like artists' studios, were hung about with cartoons, casts, and carvings of all kinds. Above all, it was considered essential to possess a specimen of that famous artist Grindling Gibbon. Sculptors, painters, carvers, gilders, and cabinetmakers worked in common, and had a common sphere for the exercise of their respective callings in the galleries and saloons of the wealthy and refined, and met together like members of one guild of art, only each representing different departments of it. Those who knew Gibson, and can call to mind the expression of his countenance—a face of indescribable animation and intellectual beauty, even in old age—can picture to themselves what it must have been in youth, and will not wonder that one so favoured by nature should feel little satisfied with the prospect of such fame as could be achieved by a career of scrollwork on the backs of chairs and other household decorations. So it was: Gibson beheld marble statues and felt an intense aspiration to follow the sculptor's art.

Gibson was the son of a market-gardener, or landscape-gardener, at Conway, in North Wales, where he was born, in 1791. His father removed to Liverpool when his son was about nine years old, with a view of emigrating to America, but was led by circumstances to change his intention and to settle in Liverpool. As a child, John Gibson had shown an instinctive fancy for drawing, and at an early age was in the habit of sketching pictures of such domestic animals as he saw around him. A new world opened upon him at Liverpool, and he tried his youthful hand with success in reproducing upon paper the pictures that he saw in the shop-windows. At the age of fourteen he was apprenticed to a cabinetmaker, and subsequently to a carver in wood. About two years later he was relieved from this irksome business by Messrs. Francis, who, detecting his artistic talents, purchased the remainder of his time and gave the youthful sculptor every encouragement. One of the partners in the firm introduced him to the late William Roscoe, who frequently invited him to his country seat, and allowed him to copy some of the choice specimens of ancient art in his gallery. The friends of Mr. Roscoe, remarking the great promise of future excellence which young Gibson displayed, subscribed a sum of money for the purpose of defraying the expense of his journey to Rome and of a residence of two years in that metropolis of art. Gibson left England for Rome in 1817, and carried with him an introduction from Flaxman to Canova, who received him with the greatest cordiality. Gibson entered his studio, and soon earned the reputation of being one of his most able and industrious pupils. Setting up on his own account in 1821, he produced his first important work, a group of "Mars and Cupid," which was much praised by Canova, and was reproduced in marble by the order of the Duke of Devonshire. This group now occupies a prominent position in the collection at Chatsworth. His next production was "Psyche and the Zephyrs," for the late Sir George Beaumont. Copies of this group were executed for Prince Torlonia and the Grand Duke of Russia. After the death of Canova, Gibson did not disdain again to become a learner, and accordingly was for a time a pupil under Thorwaldsen. Thus, trained under the two master-minds of modern sculpture, he entered on his career with a hand and a mind more thoroughly disciplined than perhaps any other English sculptor, yet without losing anything of his originality or individual character.

Mr. Gibson was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy in 1833, and became R.A. in 1836. He has, however, been but a fitful contributor to the annual exhibitions of the Academy of which he is no distinguished member. With the exception of short visits made at intervals to this country, Mr. Gibson has resided almost entirely at Rome, since his first visit to that city in 1817; and it was there he was struck down by paralysis. His studio was the resort of the patrons, practitioners, and lovers of art; and no one was more ready than he to extend the hand of friendly assistance to young students on their first arrival in that great metropolis of art. His principal works in portrait statues have been two of her Majesty; a colossal statue of the late R. H. Hon. William Huskisson, M.P.; a portrait also of Mrs. Murray and George Stephenson. He has also executed several monumental tablets and bas-reliefs. Within the last few years Mr. Gibson has lent the weight of his high reputation and example to an innovation which has caused considerable discussion in various quarters—namely, that of applying colour to marble in sculpture. This he has done in his statue of her Majesty, and in some of his other works, particularly in his exquisite Venus, which attracted so much attention at the International Exhibition of 1862. England is tolerably rich

in the works of Gibson, some one or more of which have found a place in every good collection. Liverpool is particularly well supplied with specimens of his chisel; and the inhabitants of that city have not been backward in showing their appreciation of his merits, and in regarding him with pride as a fellow-townman. There is a fine collection of about twenty casts from Gibson's best grouped statues at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham.

We read and hear of artists who have lived in garrets upon 2d. a day, with bread and water for diet, and bare whitewashed walls upon which to realise with burnt sticks their inspirations—acquiring their knowledge without masters, forming a taste in the absence of nature and the antique, and descending from their lofty abodes great painters and sculptors by their own unaided exertions. All we can say is, we have no faith in such stories. A condition of poverty is very much opposed to success in an art requiring wealth of resources; and it had gone hard with Gibson and his hopes of distinction had he been compelled to complete his apprenticeship in the manufacture of conventional scrollwork. In his eighteenth year he gave evidence of his genius for the higher walks of art by the production of a wax model, which excited public attention and secured him substantial friends. Only those who have experienced the reverses of fortune in art-struggles—those who have gone through the world of troubles which too often beset young artists—can appreciate the difference between the well-ordered studios of a wealthy firm of sculptors and the homely, inefficient means which the limited resources of an apprentice would enable him to create around himself. We take it that the advent of young Gibson in the workshops of the Messrs. Francis was most decisive and important in its influence on the success of his career. We can conceive him on his first appearance among blocks of marble, models and casts, and all the paraphernalia of a sculptor's craft, believing himself to be on the very eve of realising his aspirations. It has been said that a student of the fine art of painting might do worse than apprentice himself for a term to the mechanical occupation of house-painting, in order to acquire the practical methods of laying on colours to which skilled workmen resort. No doubt the experience of Gibson in the establishment of the cabinetmaker was of the utmost advantage to him.

Perhaps not the least remarkable feature in Gibson's character was his extraordinary good sense. With the loftier attributes of creative genius he combined a fair share of that worldly shrewdness which so much contributes to actual success. Without this element he might have sighed in vain for blocks of marble, and his noble purposes might have been sacrificed, for the discursive flights of genius require opulence of opportunity. It was, as it were, but a step to Italy, with which Roscoe, the art-historian, had filled the young sculptor's mind. Calling on Flaxman by the way, Gibson soon found himself in the presence of Canova, at Rome, who at that time was at the height of his great fame. To the honour of human nature be it said, Gibson's pilgrimage to the Eternal City was made possible by the liberality of discerning friends; and, to the honour of artist nature, he never forgot their generosity, and was careful to give proofs that it was not misapplied. Who would not live the life of such an artist? Canova received him with animation, and again the spirit of generosity was evoked in his favour. Canova offered him his purse, and threw open to him his studio doors. He declined the purse, but not so the privilege of entering the home of the famous sculptor. Within four years from the period of his entering Rome Gibson had founded a studio for himself, and commenced his imperishable series of marble groups, inspired by classic poets; and on which he may be said to have laboured till his death. He made brief work with the misconception and stigma which Continental art-critics had created at that time and cast on the British name—denying to Englishmen any capacity for the arts of design. Gibson became famous, as it were, in an hour. Canova took the Duke of Devonshire to see the young English sculptor's first work, "Mars and Cupid," and this group found its way to the famous saloons of Chatsworth. "Psyche and the Zephyrs," the next work from Gibson's chisel, was purchased by Sir George Beaumont, another eminent connoisseur. The "Psyche and the Zephyrs," when beheld in snowy, transparent whiteness, was coveted by the Prince Torlonia and the Grand Duke of Russia, for whom duplicates were made. So runs the pleasant story. But Gibson was not to be turned aside from improvement. Canova died, and then he sought in the studio of Thorwaldsen for insight of the manlier features of the great art which the Italian's dainty chisel had not revealed to him. Gibson had feasted on ideal delicacies of form and beauty more than mortal; but from the Danish chisel it was surmised that he might gain strength and majesty. This proved to be so. He altered his touch. His forms seemed at once to take firmer hold on the ground and reflected with greater force and truthfulness the nature which he sought and worshiped always. But how manifold were the advantages to a sculptor like Gibson of a studio in Rome, where so many sublime art-monuments of antiquity were daily and hourly to be seen, whence he could derive canons which proclaim, define, and for ever fix the divisions and fair proportions of the human frame in its symmetry and stateliness? He sought not, however, in forms of stone alone for that fervour, energy, and grace which lives in all that he touched. In the land of his adoption and in his daily walks he beheld subjects for his chisel in women and children embrowned by the sun. The elastic step, the burning glances of love or hatred, were there in living classic types. In his old age it would please Gibson to tell how he derived from incidents of common life, and often from among the very poor, suggestions for his noblest creations. The young peasant mother with her boy on the Roman way would grow into a Venus and a Cupid. Where might he hope to find models more worthy of the whitest Carrara and the most delicate of chisels?

In all Gibson's groups (and they are almost numerous enough to have copied the groves of Athens in the hour of her pride) he derived, in the first instance, his ideas from actual flesh and blood; and hence the nature, the wondrous look of life, which startles the spectator in all his works. The refinement of flowing drapery, chaste ornament, and antique fringes might serve to enhance, but never hide, those elements of humanity which appeal to the common human heart in every costume—the affections, the emotions, shine in every look and speak in every action.

Amid all his triumphs in Rome Gibson was never forgetful of England and home friends. Often he came hither to pay his visits of affection, no less than those of professional business. The majority of his commissions were derived from his English connections; and sometimes, leaving the Graces, he laboured to bestow such immortality to some great men—to a Huskisson or a Peel—as perishable marble may impart to philosopher or statesman. Years made no change in the great sculptor, who retained to the last that simplicity and uprightness which are ever characteristic of true greatness. He never failed, on his English visits, to inquire for the humblest of his old associates. The merchant prince shared his sympathy with the household servant. It was delightful to behold his face kindling with kindness as he inquired after some faithful old domestic, and servants showed their gratitude in ways congenial to him. They remembered his habits, his little prejudices, his fondness for simple English diet. A favourite dish placed unexpectedly before him called forth the gladness of a child. Great artists are in heart and soul children all through life. In his fondness for literature Gibson was old-fashioned enough to be pleased with Pope, and he would sit delighted at the window while he had listeners to the round, polished, critical verse of his pet poet. Only those who heard him could imagine the pleasure the reading of Alexander Pope gave him. He was an Englishman all through. Though praised and honoured by foreigners he retained his affection for, and laboured for the honour of, England. Fortunately, only a few years ago Gibson sat for his portrait to one of his earliest and dearest friends and fellow-Academicians, Boxall. The portrait was commenced in the sculptor's studio in Rome, and completed from the life in London. The picture—one of the happiest efforts of the ablest of English portrait-painters since Reynolds—is now one of the chief treasures of the entrance-hall of the Royal Academy, in Trafalgar-square.

John Gibson has died in his seventy-fifth year; and besides his works, which have raised English art in the estimation of the world, there remain of him the pleasant memories of a noble and simple man of genius.

By a codicil added to his will on May 26, 1865, Mr. Gibson bequeathed to the Royal Academy his group in marble of the wounded warrior supported by a female figure, then nearly finished; all his works in marble not sold at the time of his death—models in gesso of his works in marble not sold, except the models of such works as have been presented in marble; all his models in gesso not executed; the first cast of Venus de Medici, which was sent to Canova to be executed in marble, and which, when executed, was to replace the noble statue carried off to Paris. Moreover, he bequeathed to the Royal Academy £32,000, free of testamentary tax, on the following conditions:—A space sufficient for their reception and easy accommodation is to be provided for his works, which are to be open to the use of the students of the Royal Academy, and to be exposed to the public, according to such regulations as to the council shall seem best. Legacies of £100 were left to his executors in England, the president, treasurer, and the secretary of the Royal Academy for the time being, and who were then Sir Charles Eastlake, Mr. Boxall, and Mr. Hardwick, who would prove his will. By another codicil, made since his late illness, Gibson left £200 each to his devoted and affectionate attendants, Mrs. Spence and Miss Lloyd; the same sum to a female servant who had been long in his service, and a similar sum to each of two of his workmen.

## Foreign Intelligence.

### FRANCE.

The debate on the address commenced in the French Senate on Friday week. M. De Boissy made one of his characteristic attacks on England. His language was so violent as to draw forth expressions of disapproval from the senators and frequent calls to order from the President. On Saturday Marshal Forey said that the return of the French troops from Mexico would not take place as soon as the country appeared to desire; indeed, he advised that reinforcements should be sent out. M. Rouher, on behalf of the Government, declared that these opinions were those of the Marshal himself, and that the views of the Government were embodied in the address. Some of the senators having expressed distrust of the Italian Government carrying out the September Convention, M. Rouher maintained the good faith of Italy, and said that France would continue her efforts to bring about a reconciliation of the Pope with Italy. The Address was finally adopted unanimously.

M. Drouyn de Lhuys has received a despatch, dated the 23rd ult., from M. de Monthon, the French Minister at Washington, announcing the steps taken by the latter, and the resolutions adopted by the Federal Government in view of the recent events at Bagdad. M. de Monthon states that the Government of the United States has thoroughly decided not to allow itself to be drawn into a conflict with France through filibusters or agents of Juarez.

### SPAIN.

The newly-born Royal infant is dead. The Cortes will be closed for three days in testimony and regret of this event.

The Minister of State has announced in the Cortes that Peru is probably at the present time in open hostility with Spain. The Government has decided to issue letters of marque against Chili to all Spanish vessels the owners of which shall make the necessary application. This decision will, however, remain in abeyance until proof be obtained that the Republic of Chili has actually resorted to this mode of warfare against Spain.

### ITALY.

The following is the text of a despatch, dated Feb. 5, addressed by General Della Marmora to the Italian Minister in Madrid, in consequence of declarations contained in the Spanish Red Book respecting the policy of Spain towards Italy:—

I request you to remind Senor Bermudez de Castro that if the September Convention, while acknowledging the principle of non-intervention, nevertheless placed certain conditions upon the application of that principle, those conditions concern France exclusively. You will therefore declare that, as regards other Powers, their non-intervention in the political affairs of Rome always remains the unqualified principle upon which the conduct of Italy will be invariably based.

### AUSTRIA.

The Upper House of the Hungarian Diet has resolved, by 136 against 53 votes, to draw up a different and separate address from that of the Lower House in reply to the speech from the throne. It is stated in a Vienna paper, but under reserve, that Count Belcredi has tendered his resignation in consequence of the difference between him and Count Majlath, the Hungarian Chancellor, respecting the settlement of the Hungarian question.

### PRUSSIA.

In the Prussian Parliament Count von Bismarck and the Ministers of the Interior and Justice have been lecturing the deputies in the matter of the decision of the Supreme Court in reference to a speech of Herr Twisten. These Ministers told the deputies that they opposed the independence of the courts of justice in order that they might be free to give vent to expressions of insult and calumny. How nearly the Count and his fellow-ministers stood alone in this opinion may be judged by the fact that the resolution condemning the decision of the Supreme Court was carried by 263 to 35 votes.

### RUSSIA.

The Budget for 1866 has just appeared. The principal items are as follow:—Ordinary revenue, 349,000,000r.; extraordinary revenue (including the surplus of the last loan), 32,500,000r.; issue of Treasury bonds, 9,000,000r.; ordinary expenditure, 367,000,000r.; extraordinary expenditure, 25,000,000r.

### TURKEY.

The Paris papers have a story that something like an insurrection has taken place in Turkey. The people oppose the conscription, and troops are being sent out. The European provinces were quiet, but the Pashas had been ordered to expedite the collection of taxes, and even to obtain them in advance.

### THE UNITED STATES.

We have advices from New York to the 3rd inst. Mr. Seward had returned to Washington. The people of St. Thomas and Cuba had received him with marked courtesy and respect. At St. Thomas's he had an interview with Santa Anna, whom, according to reports, he informed that the United States would never permit the permanent establishment of the Emperor in Mexico. The correspondent of the *New York World* states that Mr. Seward had an interview at Havannah with the Aide-de-Camp of Maximilian.

The House of Representatives had adopted, by 120 to forty-six votes, a resolution reported from the Reconstruction Committee for a Constitutional amendment, apportioning the representation according to the number of the population, exclusive of those to whom the suffrage is denied on account of colour. The Senate had adopted the bill declaring all natives of the United States to be citizens, without distinction of colour. Mr. Sumner had given notice of a resolution as a substitute for the Constitutional amendment concerning representation adopted and sent up by the House. The resolution states that in the States lately in rebellion there shall be no class invested with peculiar privileges, and no denial of civil or political rights to anyone on account of colour or race.

Bagdad had been abandoned by the Liberals, and was again in possession of the Imperialists by the Liberals.

The leading merchants of Matamoros, both foreign and Mexican, had published a protest against the proceedings of the Federal civil and military authorities on the Texas side of the Rio Grande, charging them with the responsibility of the troubles and outrages perpetrated on the Rio Grande by aiding the partisans of Juarez—a party which they declare has at present no more foothold there than is afforded by Federal officials. The Consuls of Great Britain, France,



Spain, and Prussia testify to the truth of the protest. General Weitzel has addressed a letter to the Adjutant-General of the department of Texas, reviewing the protest of the merchants and Foreign Consuls at Matamoros. He makes a counter-charge that they were instrumental in aiding Confederates during the war with war material; he has disavowed the capture and pillage of Bagdad, and knows the Federal Government will do the same. All those identified in the Bagdad affair had been arrested, and a commission was in session investigating the whole matter. Weitzel had also ordered the arrest of all armed persons lurking in the district of the Rio Grande, and had annulled the order mustering out the 118th coloured infantry until the report of the military commission is made.

It was reported that several Chilean privateers were cruising round the island of Cuba.

#### MEXICO.

From Mexico there is a rumour to the effect that the Emperor Maximilian had announced that he would consent to the withdrawal of the French troops, provided the United States would send troops to replace them! In a speech which his Majesty is reported to have delivered he said he looked forward to the future without anxiety.

Intercepted letters from General Escobedo had been published, wherein he declares himself indebted to the Americans on the Texas side of the Rio Grande for valuable military stores. Cortinas had obtained some shells from Brownsville.

#### CHILI AND PERU.

By way of New York we have news from Chili and Peru to the effect that an alliance against the Spaniards had been formed by these two States. The blockade of the Chilean ports, with the exception of Valparaiso and Caldera, had been raised. Off the latter port there had been a fight, in which the Spaniards got the worst of it.

#### CANADA.

Toronto despatches report renewed alarm along the frontier on account of Fenianism, and state that the military had been much strengthened owing to the information received that General Sweeny had forces ready for raids on the principal towns.

#### THE PEABODY FUND.

MR. PEABODY has addressed the subjoined letter to the trustees of the munificent fund which he has given for the improvement of the condition of the poor of London in explanation of his views in making the donation:—

London, Jan. 29, 1866.

Gentlemen,—When I made a donation of £150,000 for the benefit of the poor of London, in March, 1862, it was my intention, if my life was spared until my retirement from business, and Providence continued me in prosperity, to place in your hands, as trustees of the charity, a further gift for the same object. That time has now arrived; but, before entering upon the subject of the second donation, allow me to say a few words relative to the course you have pursued with regard to the first. Your duties and responsibilities have been great, and the performance of the work undertaken you must have been aware would occasionally and inconveniently tax your valuable time; but, from high motives of benevolence and duty, you cheerfully accepted the trust, and I cannot but express my grateful thanks for your constant attendance at the meetings of the board, and my gratification at the great success that has attended your labours.

With regard to this my second gift, it is my desire that in the appointment of future trustees the same rules may be continued as adopted for the first, and that the United States Minister at the Court of St. James's for the time being shall always be one of them.

I now propose that, as soon as a deed can be prepared by your solicitor to fully and legally meet the views and directions which I shall state herein, to transfer into your names 5000 fully paid-up shares of stock in the Hudson's Bay Company, of £20 each, amounting to £100,000, and representing one twentieth part of that vast territory. It is my desire that all dividends, as they fall due and are collected, shall be at once invested in shares of the company until the market value of the capital and invested accrued dividends reaches the sum of £120,000, which, it is my impression, may be within two or three years; but should I be mistaken in this anticipation, and should the market value of the entire shares, including those acquired by the re-investment of dividends, be less than £100,000 at the expiration of two years from this date, I will at that time either make up the deficiency or take the shares, paying for them £100,000 in cash, as the trustees may think best for the interest of the fund; and, in the event of my death before that time, my executors will be duly authorised and directed to fulfil this engagement.

Should the shares be taken by me for £100,000, or sold to others at the limit stated above, I desire that the proceeds shall be invested in safe securities, including interest accruing on the same up to July 1, 1869, when you or your successors will consider all restrictions regarding sales at an end.

The delay thus caused in appropriating this gift to the charity will, I think, act beneficially by enabling you, first, to expend the £76,000 now remaining on hand of the former donation, thereby testing by further experience the wisdom of the course you have hitherto pursued. Taking the joint capital of the two gifts at a minimum of £250,000, it will form a fund the operation of which is intended to be progressive in its usefulness as applied to the relief of the poor of London (so correctly defined in your recent report), without exclusion in consequence of religious belief or political bias. It will therefore act more powerfully in future generations than in the present; it is intended to endure for ever. A century, in the history of London is but a brief period comparatively with the life of man; and, should your successors continue the management of the charity as you have begun it, it is my ardent hope and trust that within that period the annual receipts from rents for buildings of this improved class may present such a return that there may not be a poor working man of good character in London who could not obtain comfortable and healthful lodgings for himself and his family at a cost within his means.

As your course with regard to the former gift of £150,000 is already defined in your trust-deed, I can only express my own views and wishes regarding the appropriation of the principal and income of this second donation, and leave to yourselves and your successors to manage it accordingly.

You are fully authorised to use any portion of the fund in building lodging-houses for the labouring poor as expressed in my former letter; but, as, before many years, it is to be apprehended that desirable sites for such buildings may be difficult to obtain at moderate prices within the limits of the metropolis; in that event, it is my desire that my trustees for the time being may seek out and secure, at such rates as the state of the fund may warrant, such freehold sites, within ten miles of the present Royal Exchange, as may appear eligible, both on account of salubrity of position and proximity to the great centres of labour and railroad accommodation, due regard being had to the probable burden of taxation. It may also be desirable to obtain from railroad companies the most economical arrangements procurable for the conveyance of working people at stated hours to and from London at such moderate fares as will come within their means.

Comfortable and convenient houses are to be erected upon those sites for the exclusive accommodation of the honest and industrious poor of London, under such regulations and on such terms and conditions as my trustees may direct, subject only to the guiding principles laid down in respect to my former donation.

As dwellings in such sites may in some instances be remote from schools and other facilities for instruction, the trustees shall be at liberty in such cases, should they consider it needful, to set apart space, adjacent to the building, and suitable for school-houses for the children of the families holding tenements. But such schools must be so organised as carefully to exclude sectarian influences, and so conducted as to avoid denominational jealousy. With this view it is my desire that the course of education shall be exclusively of an elementary and literary character.

I would also suggest to my trustees that, for the mental improvement of the inmates, the school-rooms might, if they think desirable, be open some hours during the evening; and that books, periodicals, and newspapers be provided for those who chose to attend, and that at certain seasons popular and scientific lectures might be introduced, at a charge, if any, merely sufficient to defray necessary expenses.

As some of these dwellings will probably be at inconvenient distances from good markets, I would also suggest to my trustees to consider the propriety, in localities where it may seem to be required, of providing within the buildings, or near to them, apartments in which the tenants may organise co-operative stores for supplying themselves with coal and other necessary articles for their own consumption, subject to such regulations as, in the judgment of my trustees, may be needful.

I also beg to suggest and recommend to you and to your successors in the management of this trust, that in the month of February in every year after 1868, a report of the progress in buildings (if any should be commenced), with an account of receipts and expenditures, with the various items attending the management of the fund, be prepared and published in the London newspapers. I would add my wish that in like manner, as trustees of my former gift, you should continue once in every year to lay a similar report before the public.

It having occurred to me that for good reasons my trustees may wish, at a comparatively early period, to change some part or parts of the deed which is to be prepared for the management of this fund, I therefore hereby authorise them to do so at any time during my life conformably to any resolution or

resolutions which may be unanimously passed by their board and approved by me.

In conclusion, looking to the object of this donation and to the large development in coming years of an arrangement designed to promote the physical, moral, and social welfare of the deserving poor of the metropolis, I entertain a strong and earnest hope that the project will so commend itself to the sympathies and judgment of the inhabitants of London as to insure on their part that interest and co-operation which will secure to future generations of the poor those comforts which, with the blessing of Providence, it is my object to bestow upon them.

To this letter the trustees—namely, Lord Stanley (chairman), His Excellency C. F. Adams, Sir J. Emerson-Tennent, C. M. Lampson, Esq., and J. S. Morgan, Esq.—have returned the following answer:

London, Feb. 6, 1866.

Sir,—We feel that we only anticipate the satisfaction and gratitude of the public, when we express to you our own, on the receipt of your letter announcing this enlargement of your already abounding generosity to the poor of London.

The importance of this second gift is not to be measured by its money value alone; it will impart an augmented usefulness to the unexpended portion of your previous donation, by enabling it to be applied over a greatly enlarged area, as well as to give increased comforts and accommodation in the buildings to which it may be appropriated.

The most moderate return from so large an investment will furnish a permanent income, the judicious expenditure of which must in time exert an irresistible influence in raising the character of that class of houses which are now occupied by the labouring population in all parts of the metropolis, and thus to a remote posterity your name will continue to be held in grateful remembrance by the people of London as the benefactor of the poor on a scale hitherto unequalled in this or any other country.

#### THE CATTLE PLAGUE.

##### THE REPORT OF THE CATTLE PLAGUE COMMISSIONERS.

THE second part of this report, which was presented to Parliament on Monday night, commences with statistics showing the rapid increase of the disease from 11,300 cases reported to the inspectors on Oct. 7, to 120,740 on Jan. 27 last, and with remarks on the routes along which the contagion spread. The comparative immunity of the "great breeding districts of the kingdom, into which, in ordinary times, cattle are rarely imported," is pointed out; and that from "centres" of contagion "on the eastern side of the island the plague travelled west or south-west, traversing alike low and elevated lands, and not apparently influenced by varieties of soil." The only certain conclusion the Commissioners arrive at respecting the origin of the pest is that it did not commence in London cowsheds. The next portion of the report is devoted to an inquiry into the state of cattle in Continental countries near our shores. The disease, apparently, is very rife in Holland, where the measures taken against it are rather a cordon round the most infected provinces than the slaughter of infected animals; and where action has been partially intrusted to local authorities and partially resisted by the people. In France and Belgium, however, the spread of the disease was directly stopped by the sacrifice of forty-three French and of 306 Belgian animals, and the absolute prohibition of all importations of stock. The operation of the orders in Council issued from time to time by our Government is described in the third division of the document. The fourth opens with the statement that the main body of the Commissioners still adhere to, and Mr. McClean still dissents from, the conclusions they first laid down "respecting the general character of the disease," and the measures to be adopted to arrest its progress. They then explain the system of investigation set on foot to establish a sound basis for curative or preventive treatment. Reports from most of the eight medical men to whom these investigations were committed are in the Commissioners' hands; and the whole of this inquiry will "very soon be completed." The concluding portion of the report contains a statement of "some points of more or less practical moment" that have been arrived at by the Commissioners:—1. That no thoroughly efficacious treatment of the disease has been discovered. 2. That vaccination is not, though perhaps inoculation may be, a protection against the plague. 3. That the only means of combating it is to arrest the spread of infection, by the stoppage of the movement of stock, by the isolation and slaughter of infected cattle, and by the use of disinfectants. The best disinfectants, carbolic acid and chloride of lime, are pointed out by the Commissioners, and the most efficient mode of using them; but as to the best mode of securing the immediate slaughter of infected cattle, they state that "this Commission possesses no special information." They are, however, quite sure of two things:—viz., that "the subtle poison of this disease has now diffused itself throughout the country;" and that in all probability fresh importations of contagion will follow the circulation of fresh relays of foreign cattle throughout the island at the rate of 10,000 per week, more especially as the transport route through Holland lies through the most highly infected district of that country. The mere inspection of such multitudes of stock is, in their opinion, a defective guard against this danger; the sole preservative lies in the restriction of cattle importation to certain ports, the slaughter of the fat and the detention in quarantine of the lean beasts. These are the sole administrative suggestions contained in the report; nor does it attempt to embody any system to be adopted respecting the inland or the maritime transport of cattle, or the establishment of slaughter-houses and dead-meat markets. The concluding paragraph states "that the present calamity has shown how defective are our general precautions, if precautions can be said to exist, for the detection and prevention of contagious cattle diseases," and that it is most desirable that an improvement should take place in this respect. The appendix contains evidence, oral and documentary, on the points adverted to in the report.

Copies of reports from the Consul-General in Poland respecting the cattle disease raging in that country in 1857 were also presented to the House of Commons on Monday night. These documents show that the English Government was accurately informed, in March, 1857, of the nature of the cattle disease, of its supposed origin in the steppes of the Ukraine, of the ports from which this danger would most probably approach us, of the terrible facility with which the pest is spread, and of its terrible incurability. The Consul anticipated the now almost stereotyped description of the symptoms—pain in the back, the peculiar coat of the animal, matter issuing from its eyes and nostrils. He stated—what we now know too well—that the contagion is communicated by clothes, by old hides, by farmyard dogs. "Nearly every remedy," he wrote, "has been tried—salts of different kinds, antimony, mercury, soda, saltpetre, cold water, nuxvomica; but all have failed alike. The consequence has been the institution of the most stringent Government measures for the indiscriminate slaughter of all beasts exhibiting a symptom of the murrain." He also pointed out that by this means the evil had been nearly, if not wholly, overcome in Prussian Poland. The necessity of imposing strict quarantine upon cattle arriving from Russia, and of inspecting the hides transmitted from her ports, was earnestly pressed upon the Government.

##### AN ALLEGED CURE FOR THE CATTLE PLAGUE.

Mr. Maurice Worms, of The Lodge, Egham, Surrey, having been successful in treating cattle suffering from rinderpest, Lord Leigh applied to him to take in hand his stock, among which the plague had broken out in a most virulent form; and his Lordship states that in twenty-four hours from the administration of Mr. Worms's medicine the animals treated were all well and taking their food as usual. The subjoined letter from Mr. Worms to Lord Leigh explains the mode of treatment adopted:—

Dear Lord Leigh,—After the fortunate result of my treatment of cattle affected with the rinderpest at your farm at Stoneleigh, I think it just that I should explain to you—first, what I consider to be the premonitory symptoms of the disease; secondly, the ingredients and mode of preparing the medicine I employ; thirdly, the precautions to be observed while the animals are under treatment. I passed, as you are aware, many years on my estates in the island of Ceylon, and kept very large herds of cattle for the purpose of high cultivation. My animals were every year affected with a disease which I have since found to be identical with the rinderpest now raging. For the first fifteen years of my sojourn my efforts to avert its ravages were fruitless. I did not, however, despair, but watched the malady closely, and at last found a method of effectually checking it in its first stage. When an animal is suspected of having the rinderpest, or, as a necessary precaution at the present time, its mouth should be opened and its breath smelt by a person with a keen sense of smell. It is self-evident that, as with human beings, so with animals, in ill-health the breath is tainted, and that of the cow, usually so sweet, becomes most offensive. The excrement also should be tested in a similar manner, as in this disease it undergoes a total change. The taint of the breath is the most important point in the diagnosis, as indicating to a certainty the presence of the first stage of the disease. As soon as this test has been applied, the animal should at once be separated from those still healthy, and the following medicine should be administered:—Take a pound of small red pickling onions and a pound of garlic, peel them, put them together into a mortar and reduced them to a fine pulp, to this pulp add a pound of ground ginger, and mix thoroughly. Take three quarters of a pound of asafoetida, pour sufficient water over it to cover it, then allow it to boil till no sediment remains, carefully removing all hard portions; pour this decoction of asafoetida over the pulp of onions, garlic, and ginger, and stir the whole mass thoroughly; add to this eight quarts of rice-water, and allow it to cool. This is sufficient for fourteen full-grown animals.

Dose.—To a full-grown animal,  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a pint; to a heifer, seven eighths of a pint; and to a calf, five eighths of a pint.

The medicine should be given the moment the animal's breath is the least tainted, and should only be repeated once in twenty-four hours in very bad cases. Should the animal's bowels be confined after twelve hours, and the stomach swollen, administer to a full-grown animal half a pound, and to a calf a quarter, of fresh, unsalted lard, made into boluses. If the mouth be sore

wash the gums with a pulp made of the rind of Seville oranges, boiled. Diet.—Two hours after the medicine has been administered the animal should be fed with rice-gruel, and during two days, three times a day, with nothing else than rice-gruel and a little sweet hay. The animals must be kept warm, and the stall thoroughly disinfected and ventilated. This is the whole of my treatment.

FATAL ACCIDENT NEAR WINDSOR.—A fatal accident happened near Windsor on Monday. Some waggoners in the employment of Mr. Thorn, farmer, left Windsor on that day with some loads of barley for Staines. On their way back they took what is called the lower road, which runs on the sloping bank of the river, and which was partially covered with water. The first waggon, driven by a man named Hambledon, had not gone far when it was carried into the stream, and the man and his horses were drowned. The late storms and floods had, it seems, swept away part of the bank of the river.

THE JUDGMENT OF ABRAHAM.—A New York correspondent tells the following story of President Lincoln:—Franklin W. Smith, a Boston contractor, was tried by a court-martial and found guilty of pocketing a thousand or more dollars out of a contract with the navy department for supplies. The report of the court-martial was sent to President Lincoln for his examination, who returned it with this characteristic indorsement:—"Whereas Franklin W. Smith had transactions with the United States Navy Department to a million and a quarter of dollars, and had a chance to steal a quarter of a million; and whereas he was charged with stealing only 10,000 dollars, and from the final revision of the testimony it is only claimed that he stole 100 dollars, I don't believe that he stole anything at all. Therefore the records of the court-martial, together with the finding and sentence, are disapproved, declared null and void, and the defendant is fully discharged. (Signed) A. LINCOLN."

A SMART REJOINDER.—Half a dozen busybodies among the Congregationalists have been sending round a circular to all their ministers asking them to fill up a schedule stating whether or not they are teetotalers; if so, how long they have been so, and all the rest of it. They received in reply, from a minister signing himself "Torquemada," and dating from the "Holy Inquisition," the following counter-schedule:—"Are you a polygamist? and are you prepared to sign a pledge against polygamy if a form be sent to you? 2. How many children have you (if any); and if none, why not? 3. Do you ever quarrel with your wife or any of her near relations? and, if so, do you ever let the sun go down upon your wrath? 4. How long do you allow your tailor's bills to remain unpaid? When these questions are answered by each of the six gentlemen, Torquemada will be prepared with another list."

THE SHENANDOAH CORRESPONDENCE.—A bluebook containing further correspondence on the Shenandoah case has been laid upon the table of the House of Commons. Much of it has already been published. A despatch from Mr. Seward to Mr. Adams, dated Nov. 30, states that the United States Government accept the Shenandoah, but with no sense of satisfaction. They would have been better pleased if the British Government had ordered proceedings for the condemnation of the vessel; but the course the British Government had hitherto pursued in regard to the application for justice was such as to discourage the expectation of such disposition of the ship. Mr. Seward finds fault with the release of Captain Waddell and the crew; and says that the United States Government might have called for their prompt surrender as fugitives from justice, to be taken to the United States and punished for their crimes. On Dec. 26 Earl Clarendon wrote to Mr. Bruce, inclosing the last despatch, and saying that he told Mr. Adams nothing and desired to say nothing calculated to impair the friendly relations existing between the two countries. He afterwards urged that bygones should be bygones, and that the two countries should unite for the advancement of the international law. On Jan. 3 Mr. Adams wrote that the Government declined to join in a concurrent revision of the statutes as to international law. On Jan. 19 Earl Clarendon wrote a long despatch to Mr. Bruce in reply to Mr. Seward's communication, and said that the British Government thought best to consult its own dignity by not replying to the charges made of injustice. He controverted some of the statements, and said that if the evidence had been enough, the agents of the United States might have proceeded against the crew for piracy in our courts. One or two other despatches follow concerning Captain Waddell's destruction of ships after he knew that the war was over, and the series is concluded by a brief note from Lord Clarendon to Mr. Adams, stating that her Majesty's Government will gladly co-operate in establishing the truth, not only as regards the Shenandoah, but in whatever may tend to render clear and practical the obligations of neutral nations.

#### THE LAST EPISODE OF THE SPANISH INSURRECTION.

WITH the sketch from which the accompanying Engraving has been taken some particulars have been furnished which have not at present found their way into the reports received from official sources at Madrid, and we translate them that our readers may learn what was the final demonstration which terminated the insurrection.

"The fact that Madrid has been placed under martial law has not altogether crushed the people of that lively capital, and, indeed, for some time past there has been very little change apparent even in the aspect of the Puerta del Sol. It has not particularly felt the want either of newsmongers or of news, for there have been fresh dénouements every five minutes, and the cafés have each had their especial politicians, who knew exactly how long martial law would continue and what was the real explanation of the insurrection. This has been just the sort of civil war that the people here like—where the victory is gained without bloodshed. It resembles, in fact, the conquests which one may witness at Franco's circus, and that is just the thing for our money. It is not for me to venture on any opinion of this military imbroglio which has been called an insurrection. Nobody really comprehends what it is all about, and until the day when future historians have complete access to existing state papers we shall learn very little on the subject. You know, of course, that the campaign is now entirely at an end. Prim has contrived to reach the Portuguese frontier with several hundred of his men, who have found it a hard matter to keep life and soul together during such a harassing retreat. But the real details of the march are at present known only to a few, while the latest operations of the Royal and loyal troops are not publicly recorded for the information of the people. I may be allowed, however, to tell you of at least one episode of that final retreat of the insurgents. The chief Escoda, one of Prim's lieutenants, had command of a detachment, which it was his duty to conduct by way of some of the gorges or mountain roads of Catalonia; and it happened that when they had reached one of the plains of the Ribas, he received intelligence that he was surrounded by the Queen's troops and stood a very good chance of being taken prisoner, with all his company. Escoda got his men together at once, and determined to make a headlong attack upon the enemy's line. The Royal troops, utterly confounded by this sort of pluck, were thrown into confusion, and left the road open for the insurgents, the audacity of whose leader enabled them successfully to retreat by another line of march. This is the only incident of a really military nature which has been verified; but you see, after all, that the Spanish insurrection ended in a conflict which deserves to be recorded amongst deeds of arms."

#### CHINESE PUNISHMENTS.

THE criminal code of China, as is well known, is exceedingly severe. Life is held in small respect, death being inflicted for what in the western world would nowadays be deemed very venial offences. Torturings and other species of cruelty are also practised, with small consideration for the feelings of the victims. Thus, the author of "Harry Lawton's Adventures" (Seeley, Jackson, and Halliday), from which we copy the accompanying Engraving, and which was noticed in these columns a week or two since, thus describes some modes of punishment which obtain in the Flowery Land:—

"For some crimes men are cut up into little pieces; for others they are ground between two millstones; but those are sights that I haven't seen, I am happy to say.

"I once saw a man in a cask, and people said he was a thief. It seems a common way of punishing thieves; and it is more painful than you would think at first. You see, they take the fellow and stuff him into this cask with his head through a hole in the top and his two hands through holes in the sides; so he can never lie down and never move without carrying the thing with him; and he is exposed to the sun, and must be starved unless some one is good enough to feed him, for he can't help himself. The man that I saw had a month of it, and looked so bad. It makes me sick to think of him. I saw another thief, with one foot and one hand put through holes in a wooden frame, and one policeman was dragging him along by a chain fastened round his neck, while another was thrashing him all the time. I suppose he deserved to be punished; but English





THE SPANISH INSURRECTION: DETACHMENT OF INSURGENTS UNDER ESCODA OCCUPYING THE LINE OF ROUTE OF THE ROYAL TROOPS.



people couldn't look on and see human creatures tormented so coolly as these wretches do."

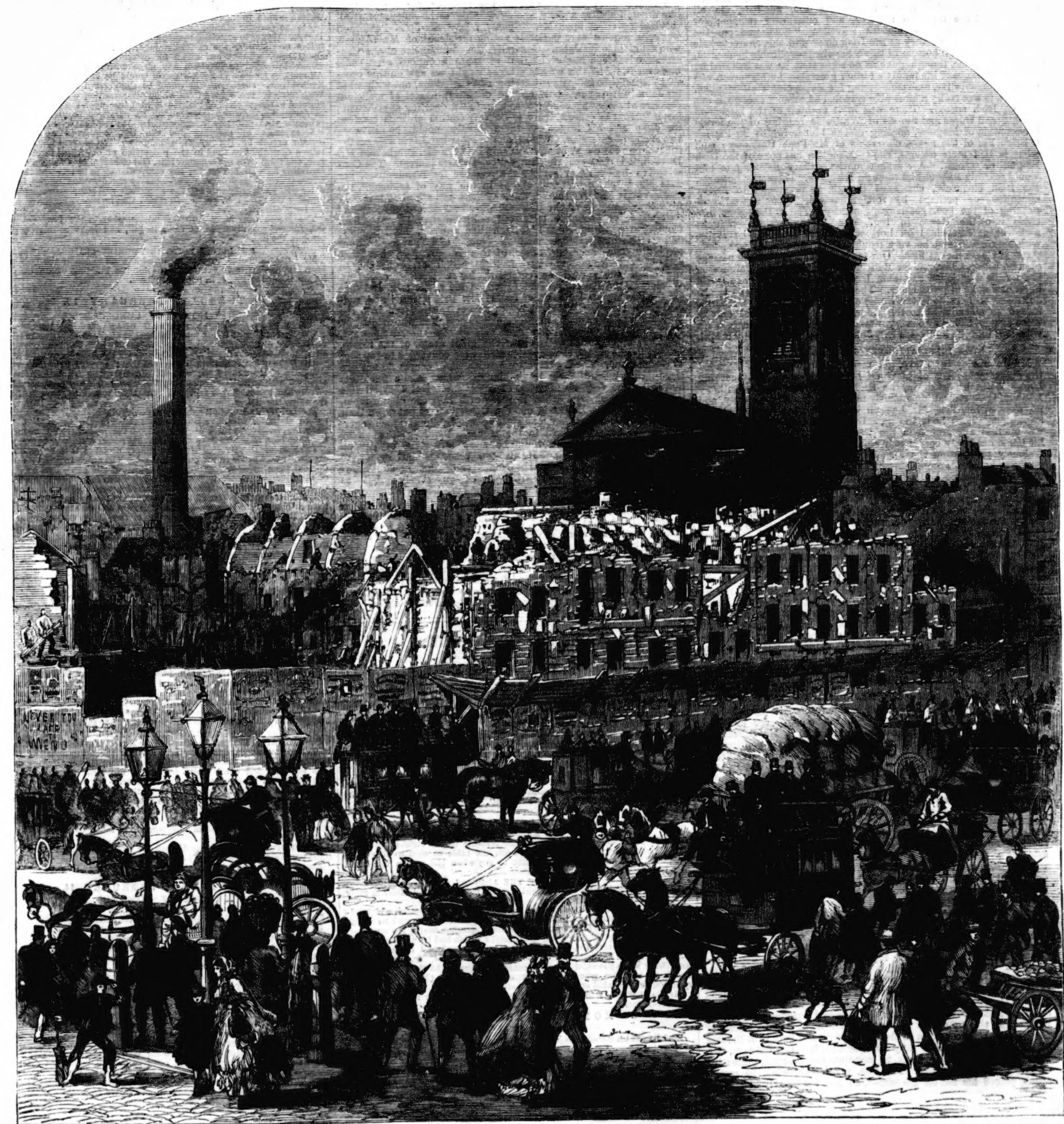
### THE WORKS IN HOLBORN VALLEY.

OUR readers are already aware that extensive improvements are about to be effected in Holborn valley; that a viaduct is to be constructed stretching from the crests of Holborn-hill and of Snow-hill; that several new streets, or portions of streets, are to be made; and that the whole aspect of the place is to be changed. This is one of the great works undertaken by the Metropolitan Board of Works, and which, when completed, will help to perpetuate the names of Sir John Thwaites and his colleagues, and make their fame in some degree rival that of the great reconstructor of Paris—Baron Haussmann. Of course, in such operations on such a site, demolition must necessarily precede construction; and, as will be seen from our Engraving, the work of destruction goes bravely on. At the south-west corner of Snow-hill and Farringdon-



PUNISHMENT OF A THIEF IN CHINA.

street several houses have been pulled down, and on the opposite side of Farringdon-street, at the foot of Holborn-hill, still greater havoc has been made. Tenement after tenement has fallen before the vigorous attacks of the navvies engaged on the work, till now there is but one house left standing between Farringdon-street and Shoe-lane. St. Andrew's Church is now fully exposed to view from the foot of the hill, together with the backs of large workshops—those of Messrs. Pontifex, the engineers, we suppose—of the existence of which no one standing in Farringdon-street could previously have had any notion. Light and air have been let into the confined region of Plumtree-court, and we hope a portion of the scheme of improvements will be the total removal of that noisome slum. The present aspect of the works is not by any means pretty, though it is not devoid of the elements of the picturesque; but patience! the rubbish and dust will by-and-by disappear, and elegant structures take the place of the fabrics doomed to destruction.



LONDON IMPROVEMENTS: STATE OF THE WORKS IN HOLBORN VALLEY.



## INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 269.

RINDERPEST.

ON the motion "that an Address be presented to her Majesty" thanking her for her most gracious Speech it is competent for any member to move an amendment to the said Address. On the first night of the discussion of this motion there was much talk, but no amendment. The talk was about the cattle plague, and a dreary talk it was. Nor could it be otherwise. The subject itself is not a lively one; nobody understands it; and, this being so, it naturally fell into the hands of dull men, for superior men will not talk about what they do not understand. As you listened to these gentlemen—if you could listen—you seemed to have before you a picture of heavy men floundering in a bog, or a number of purblind men attempting to explore a dark cavern by the glimmering, flickering light of rush candles. True, there was in some of these speakers a good deal of force—in Mr. Banks-Stanhope, for instance; but it was force undirected to any well ascertained end. No wonder, then, that it was a dreary debate; and yet the house was full all through the night; but that is easily accounted for. The country gentlemen are deeply interested in this fell cattle plague. All the members are as yet fresh and up to their work. Moreover, there are somewhere about 180 new men, to whom the House is a novelty. In a few months the gloss of novelty will be worn off, the members will be wearied and jaded by hard committee work up stairs and by late hours, and then, if such another debate should occur, the speakers will have to address a small audience and run the risk of a count out.

## THE O'DONOGHUE OF THE GLENS.

BUT on Thursday night we had a very different performance. Instead of Rinderpest we had Fenianism; and instead of ponderous, bucolic country gentlemen, the speakers were excitable, imaginative, eloquent Irishmen. All Irishmen are eloquent—that is to say, if they be real Irishmen, for there are Irish and Irish—the genuine Milesians, descendants of the old race which inhabited Ireland when St. Patrick charmed away the snakes, and ages before; the descendants of the English who got grants from the Crown of the estates which the old proprietors by rebellion lost; and the Protestants of the north, who are not really Irish, but Scotch. The O'Donoghue, who began this debate, is a genuine Irishman—one of the old, old race. His real designation is "The O'Donoghue of the Glens," which points back to the times when Ireland was divided into clans. "The O'Donoghue of the Glens" was then chieftain of a clan and lord of a great estate. But nothing remains of all this now but the "shadow of a great name." Power and estate too, we fear, are all gone. No! the tradition remains, and must ever remain; for of all nations, says a modern traveller, "none preserve the traditions of their country as the Irish do;" and this characteristic lies, perhaps, at the bottom of this otherwise inexplicable Fenianism. The O'Donoghue, though, gave us no signs that he was irritated by the remembrance of his family's former greatness, for his speech was calm, argumentative, and, considering his standpoint, statesmanlike. In short, it was really a most able speech, and, strange enough, it was not an Irish speech. There was in it nothing of the rattle and sparkle and tropes and figures of Whiteside, nothing of the fervid declamation of Maguire, nothing of the blundering of Sir Patrick O'Brien, nor of the sharp cleverness of Mr. Pope Hennessy; and, what is still more curious, The O'Donoghue has none of the Irish brogue or accent. A stranger in the gallery listening to him would scarcely suspect him to be an Irishman. There was, however, the Irish eloquence, chastened though, as it seemed to us, by education, or perhaps by foreign travel, though we know nothing of the hon. gentleman's history. The O'Donoghue first came into the House in 1857, and Fame heralded him as a violent, untamable Irish lion, who would astonish the House with his roaring and be very troublesome. And there was something of this in him at first. Our readers will remember the passage of arms between him and Sir Robert Peel, which, if Lord Palmerston had not held back his excitable Irish Secretary, might have ended in an exchange of pistol shots. The lion, though, soon got tamed down—as all lions do in the House of Commons. The O'Donoghue moved an amendment to the Address: he, however, got only 25 votes against 346. Two very notable Englishmen, though, went with him into the lobby—to wit, John Bright and John Stuart Mill.

## THE IRISH ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEBUT.

Mr. John Aloysius Blake, the member for Waterford, seconded the amendment; but of him and his speech we shall say nothing here. When he sat down, the Right Honourable James Anthony Lawson, Q.C., rushed impetuously into the field. Impetuously, and no wonder, for, first, Mr. Lawson is an Irishman, and of course impulsive. Then he is the new Irish Attorney-General, and this was his first appearance in the Parliamentary arena. In Ireland his name has lately been much before the public; for he has been zealously prosecuting the Fenians there; but here "his fire-new stamp of honour is scarce current." In chivalrous phrase, he had to win his spurs. And now a word or two about Mr. Lawson, and how he got into Parliament. He was made Attorney-General last year, in place of Mr. O'Hagan, who was elevated to the Bench; and as it was necessary, above all things, to get a seat in Parliament, he rushed down to Portlinton, to try his luck there. Now, Portlinton belongs to the Earl of that name, and had hitherto, for many years, always returned one of his Lordship's family, and it was thought that Mr. Lawson had but a very small chance of success; but fortune favours the brave, and of the eighty-six voters of that respectable borough Mr. Lawson polled forty-six, whilst Mr. Dawson Damer, the Earl's kinsman, got only thirty-five. Mr. Lawson's debut was not a splendid success. He is eloquent, luxuriantly eloquent, if eloquence consist in a rush of words; but he is not quite master of his eloquence. More than once he seemed to be embarrassed by his eloquence—lost in a maze of words through which, to bystanders, there seemed to be no path. It is, however, but justice to say, that if Mr. Lawson was imprudent in getting into this maze, he showed great cleverness in threading his way out.

## AND MR. REARDEN'S.

Several new members made their maiden speeches on this Irish question. We shall, however, bring only one before the notice of our readers—to wit, Mr. Rearden. "And who is Mr. Rearden?" some of our readers may ask. "We never heard of the gentleman," as the Duke of Wellington said when Sir John Pakington first took office. Mr. Rearden is an auctioneer and house agent, and "hangs out," as the cant phrase is, at 94, Piccadilly, and having possibly made money there, and being seized by ambition, that last infirmity of noble and sometimes of ignoble minds, went to Ireland, his native land, and somehow persuaded the electors of Athlone to forsake their wealthy neighbour, Mr. John Ennis, of Ballinahoon Court, and return him, Mr. Rearden. By what sort of persuasion he got his seat will have to be determined, it is said, by a Committee of the House. Meanwhile, Mr. Rearden is provisionally the lawful representative of the 225 free and independent electors of Athlone; and it would appear that he does not mean to be a silent member (what real Irishman ever did on coming to Parliament mean to be a silent member?), for scarcely had he got warm in his seat when he rushed to the front to make his maiden speech. And what a speech was that! True, the reporters clipped it and trimmed it, as their manner is with rough shaggy speeches, and make it look smart and sleek as a newly-clipped Welsh pony. But it was a very curious specimen of Irish oratory as delivered. Twice the honourable gentleman stumbled against an order of the House. He alluded to the mover of the amendment as his "honourable friend The O'Donoghue;" and, when he was vociferously called to order, he looked round the House defiantly and repeated the offence; but he was this time met with such a storm of "Order! order!" that he quickly backed on to the right track, and kept it to the end of his speech. Mistakes may be tolerated, but not defiance, Mr. Rearden! We must not omit to mention the practical peroration of Mr. Rearden's speech. The hon. gentleman, when he rose to speak, placed his hat on his seat—new hat, most likely bought for

the occasion. Well, excited by his novel position, he forgot all about his hat, and, plunging down upon it, he crushed his tile figurative into the shape of a tile real, to the great amusement of those who saw the disaster.

## SIR JOHN PAKINGTON AND JOHN BRIGHT.

ON Friday night we had a set-on to the Jamaica question between Sir John Pakington and Mr. John Bright. Sir John was the challenger. Sir John's backers were very jubilant as he stepped into the ring; but everybody acquainted with the powers of the combatants knew that it was Lombard-street to a China orange against the challenger. How could the Right Hon. Baronet imagine that he was fit to cope with Mr. Bright? The Queen can make the Right Hon. Baronet a First Lord of the Admiralty; but to give him strength and skill to encounter successfully the most powerful athlete in England is "aboon her might." Sir John, though, began the attack with great confidence, and, as we have said, his backers cheered him vociferously. Very calmly, too, he went to work, seemingly quite sure that he should punish severely, and perhaps smash, his antagonist. To drop the pugilistic style, he evidently fancied that he had got a case against the member for Birmingham that would bring down upon him the condign censure of the whole House. Poor man! he did not seem to know that there are two sides to this as there are to most other questions. He had looked at only one side, and dreamed not that there is another. He had culled from the member for Birmingham's speeches on the Jamaica question certain strong expressions, and these he read with great solemnity of manner, evidently thinking that he need do little else to elicit the strong condemnation of the House, and, perhaps, exact an apologetic explanation from the accused. He must, however, have been soon startled out of his illusion, for, whilst he was reading the strongest of his quotations, there came from Mr. Bright an emphatic "Hear, hear!" as much as to say "Ye; I said that, and mean to stick to it, and defend it, as you shall presently learn." Or, if this "Hear, hear!" did not dispel the illusion entirely from the Right Hon. Baronet's mind, it must surely have been quite blown away by the burst of cheering which broke forth from below the gangway, and rolled, though in somewhat fainter tones, along the Liberal benches right up to the Speaker's chair. Meanwhile Mr. Bright sat in his usual place, calm and collected. That the member for Birmingham is volcanic we all know; but no signs of this—no sparks, no smoke even—escape until the time for the explosion to break forth fully comes. After Sir John had let off his steam on the Jamaica question, he wandered away to the reform bill; still pecking at the member for Birmingham like a small bird at a stone, and attempting to be witty. But all this had no effect upon Mr. Bright. Whilst Sir John Pakington was speaking we were curiously noting the looks of Mr. Disraeli, who sat close to Sir John. Generally, the countenance of the Conservative leader is inscrutable, but at times a curious, grim smile flits over it. And this we and others thought we saw on this occasion—seeming to indicate something of satisfaction, not with what Sir John was saying, but, on the contrary, a sort of malicious pleasure at seeing his colleague so manifestly courting punishment; for, if rumour be correct, there is no very cordial alliance between Sir John and his leader—as there hardly could be between two such different men. Whilst, on the other hand, it is noteworthy that though there may be no friendship between Mr. Bright and Mr. Disraeli, it is clear that they respect each other's powers. The Conservative leader never attacks the member for Birmingham, nor does Mr. Bright ever assail, except in the way of argument, the Conservative leader. Indeed, we may here remark that it is only from the small men of the House that we hear those iterations and reiterations of "the hon. member for Birmingham!" "the hon. member for Birmingham!" Men like Disraeli, Lord Stanley, and Gladstone seldom mention him, and never without respect. The inspiring cause of this is not fear, but that sort of chivalrous, generous feeling which every knight in the olden times used to entertain for a worthy opponent. When Sir John Pakington had expended his small talk, and shot off the last arrow of his wit, of course Mr. Bright rose; and, suddenly, the House, which had begun to get restless, fell into the profoundest silence and attention, and expectation was evident on every face. The members on each side of him turned sideways, that they might see as well as hear the great orator of the House, whilst all eyes on the Conservative side were converged to the spot where he stood. The Conservative gentlemen, of course, do not like Mr. Bright; most of them think him dangerous, and a few deem him to be the very abomination of desolation. But they all like to hear him speak, and when it goes forth into the dining-room, smoky, &c., that Bright is up, the Conservatives put down their glasses or drop their cigars, and rush up with quite as much eagerness as the veriest Radical in the House. Mr. Bright, when he rose, did not explode; nor did he show any signs of passion or even intense feeling. He is too practised an orator to do that. He began, as the manner of all great orators is, calmly, and for some time went on slowly; but as he proceeded he gathered way, sending out, like a storm-cloud rising above the horizon, electric flashes of light; and at last came the storm itself. This speech of Mr. Bright, though by no means the greatest that he has delivered, was certainly one of the most passionate, fervid, and effective denunciatory harangues that the House has ever heard. The effect for the time was astonishing. The Conservative gentlemen, who were just before harking on Sir John Pakington, seemed positively cowed into silence, just as a raging sea is sometimes pressed down and for a time calmed by the weight of a tempest of wind; nor was there much cheering on the Liberal side of the House—men there were too deeply moved to cheer.

## Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEB. 9.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

## THE CAPTIVES IN ABYSSINIA.

LORD CHELMSFORD asked for the latest information received by the Government with respect to the condition of Consul Cameron and the other persons detained as captives in Abyssinia. The Earl of CLARENDON said letters had been lately received from Massowah, by way of Aden, and dated Dec. 6, which, although they did not announce the release of the captives, stated that Consul Cameron was alive, but that the Emperor had gone away to pursue some rebels and taken his English prisoners with him. In one of his letters, Mr. Rassam still expressed hopes of a successful result; and another from Consul Cameron himself gave a favourable account of the health of the captives, with the exception of Mr. Rosenberg, who was unwell.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## THE REFORM BILL.

SIR G. GREY stated that the returns relating to the right of voting at Parliamentary elections would be laid upon the table as soon as they were completed; but he could not undertake to say when the reform bill would be introduced.

## REPORT ON THE ADDRESS.

LORD F. CAVENTISH having brought up the report on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, Sir J. PAKINGTON drew attention to that part of the Speech which adverted to the disturbances in Jamaica, and censured the observations which Mr. Bright had made on the massacre in some speeches during the recess.

Mr. BRIGHT replied, repeating the remarks which had been censured, and declaring that every Englishman ought to feel profound horror for the atrocities which had been committed. It would require, Mr. Bright added, something more powerful than the censures of the Right Hon. Baronet and the cheers of those who supported him to deter him (Mr. Bright) from speaking out his mind on any or all questions.

Mr. CARDWELL said a few words in vindication of the course taken by the Government.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

EARL RUSSELL said in reply to a question that the Government was not prepared with an Act to carry out the recommendations of the Select Committee of 1864 on railway companies' borrowing powers.

After this followed a discussion on the British Museum, in the course of which EARL RUSSELL said that the Government did not intend to introduce at present a bill to alter the management of the museum.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## LICENSING OF THEATRES.

SIR G. GREY stated, in reply to Mr. Locke, that the Under Secretary for the Home Department would shortly move the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the state of the law as to the licensing of theatres and other places of amusement in the metropolis.

## THE POOR IN THE METROPOLIS.

MR. C. VILLIERS, in reply to a question of Lord Cranbourne, stated that on an early day he should ask for leave to introduce a bill for more effectually securing the execution of the laws relating to the poor in the metropolis, and that bill would be founded upon the resolutions of the Committee which sat and inquired into the subject in the last Parliament.

## KING'S COUNTY ELECTION.

MR. AYRTON brought forward the subject of the disputed King's County election, and said that, owing to a mistake in casting up the poll-books, Sir P. O'Brien was returned in place of Mr. Hennessy. He moved that the return should be corrected.

SIR P. O'BRIEN pledged his word of honour that he believed himself in a majority at the election.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL thought the course taken irregular, and suggested that the motion should be withdrawn, which course Mr. Ayrton took.

## THE CATTLE PLAGUE.

SIR G. GREY moved that the House go into Committee for the purpose of enabling him to introduce his proposed measure relating to contagious or infectious diseases in cattle and other animals. Having adverted to the alarming extent to which the "Cattle Plague" had prevailed, and the diversity of opinion as to the best means of checking and ultimately suppressing it, the right hon. gentleman proceeded to describe the principle and main provisions of the bill. Its principle, he said, was to lay down certain rules applicable to the whole country, from which no local authority should be permitted to depart; secondly, to make use of local authority for the purpose of enforcing those rules; and, thirdly, to give local authorities discretion as to the various regulations to be made according to the varying circumstances of the different parts of the country. Turning then to the enacting parts of the bill, the right hon. gentleman went through its different provisions, the main portions of which were that the local authorities should appoint officers to give effect to the regulations to be made, and to cause all infected animals within their district to be slaughtered. With regard to animals not actually infected, but which had been in contact with infected animals, or in such contiguity to them as to raise the presumption that they might have imbibed the disease, it was not proposed to make their slaughter imperative; but the local authorities would be empowered to act according to the circumstances of the case, and, if they thought fit, to direct the slaughter of such animals. The bill would also adopt the principle of compensation for animals so slaughtered, whether infected or not; and the rate of compensation, in the case of the former class, would not exceed two thirds of the value of the animal, or a maximum of £20. In the case of healthy animals ordered to be killed, the compensation would not exceed three fourths of the value, or a maximum of £25. Provision would also be made for the disinfection of premises. It was not intended to adopt the principle of an unqualified prohibition of removal; but to impose certain statutory restrictions of universal application, leaving it open to the local authorities to make regulations varying according to the peculiar circumstances of their particular part of the country. Persons detected in violating the regulations would be apprehended and taken before magistrates, the cattle detained, and, if necessary, ordered to be slaughtered, without any claim for compensation. The local authorities would have power to proclaim any place within their districts as infected. All masts for lean and store cattle would be absolutely prohibited for a limited time. Foreign cattle would be slaughtered at the ports of entry. With reference to the fund from which compensation was to be provided, he objected to the proposal of making it a charge upon the Consolidated Fund as dangerous. At the same time, he admitted the soundness of the principle that the loss occasioned by the slaughter of animals, and the expenses of carrying out the bill, ought to be borne to a certain extent by the whole community. He proposed, therefore, to raise a compensation fund in the proportion of one third from the county rate, one third from the borough rate, and one third by a rate on owners not exceeding 5s. a head of cattle; the compensation to be retrospective in cases where the cattle had been slaughtered by the direction of the inspectors. After going minutely through the numerous and complicated details of the measure, the right hon. gentleman stated that he should fix the second reading for Wednesday.

The House then went into Committee, wherein the proposition of the Government was discussed at some length, and leave ultimately given to bring in the bill.

## DWELLINGS FOR THE WORKING CLASSES.

MR. CHILDERS obtained leave to bring in a bill to enable the Public Works Loan Commissioners to advance loans for the building of dwelling-houses for the labouring classes in populous places.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

## THE CATTLE PLAGUE.

THE EARL OF WINCHILSEA asked whether the Government was prepared to recommend to Parliament any grant to persons who had been compelled to slaughter cattle not offered for sale by order of the inspectors.

THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH observed that the order for the indiscriminate slaughter of infected cattle, without accompanying regulations, had been attended with serious consequences; for when cattle had been attacked the owners had concealed the fact and sent them to market, thus still further spreading the disease.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR said it was doubtful whether there was power to enforce the order without a liberal construction of the Act of 1848. It was necessary, however, to act decisively upon the moment, and the order had therefore been issued on the assumption that power was given to carry it out.

THE EARL OF DERBY said the Act simply declared it to be an offence to expose diseased cattle in the public market. The order issued by the Privy Council was altogether contrary to the spirit of the Act. Persons deprived of their property under the order had a fair claim to compensation from the Government. He suggested that instead of proceeding with a complicated bill, Ministers should give effect to their intentions by means of resolutions to be introduced simultaneously in both Houses of Parliament.

EARL RUSSELL thought that the order of the Privy Council came within the scope of the Act of 1848, which was passed to prevent the spread of disease. He thought it would be inexpedient to proceed by resolution, and that it would be better to divide the Government measure into two bills.

Some further conversation ensued, but led to no result.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## NEW BILLS, ETC.

SIR J. GRAY gave notice that on that day month he would bring on the question of the Irish Church. SIR G. GREY announced that the Government would bring in a bill for the preservation of open spaces about the metropolis. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, replying to Mr. Samuelson, said emphatically that the Government did not intend, either in this or in any other Session, to bring in a bill to alter the Act of 1844 so as to give the Bank of England optional power of issuing notes. Mr. Harcourt carried a motion to bring in a bill to abolish church rates. SIR J. PAKINGTON carried a motion for a Select Committee to inquire into the Educational Department of the Privy Council. Mr. Pollard-Urquhart got leave to bring in a bill to regulate county infirmaries in Ireland. Mr. Newdegate obtained leave to bring in a bill to provide for the commutation of church rates. Mr. Coleridge brought in a bill to abolish certain tests at the University of Oxford. SIR C. O'LEIGH brought in a bill to codify and amend the law as to juries in criminal cases.

## PARLIAMENTARY OATHS.

SIR G. GREY, in Committee of the whole House, moved that the Chairman be directed to ask leave to bring in a bill for the amendment of the Acts relating to the oaths taken by the members of that House. Having observed that the time had come when, by almost universal consent, the oath of abjuration and supremacy taken by Protestants might be dispensed with, and when in the case of Roman Catholics the abjuration of the claims of the Pretender was useless, and the words relating to the Established Church constituted no additional security for the Church, the right hon. gentleman said he proposed, by means of a short bill, to repeal the present oaths and enact a simple uniform oath of allegiance to be taken by all the members of the House in common.

MR. NEWDEGATE objected to disturb the settlement which was arrived at eight years ago, after a struggle of eleven years. Leave was given to bring in the bill.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## THE CATTLE PLAGUE.

SIR G. GREY moved the second reading of the cattle plague bill. MR. HUNT passed in review the provisions of the bill, condemning the system of licensing and expressing his preference for a compulsory and uniform set of regulations applicable to the whole country. He approved many of the regulations of the bill, pointing out that some of them, however, were already in force under the Orders in Council.

MR. BRIGHT was of opinion that a strict system of isolation would diminish the necessity for compulsory slaughter, which, coupled with compensative efforts, he feared would lead the farmers to slacken their preventive and curative efforts. He inveighed strongly against the compensation clauses, which, he said, were contrary to all the principles on which Parliament had ever acted in reference to other interests; the effect of which, he said, would be to tax towns and villages to indemnify rich landowners and others for losses which were the result of the visitation of Providence.

Colonel LLOYD-LINDSAY supported Sir G. Grey's bill, approving particularly its permissive character. He believed that the stringent compulsory measures proposed by Mr. Hunt would not be tolerated by the country.

MR. LOWE reminded the House that the compensation provided by the bill was not for losses sustained by the death of cattle from the disease, but for



cattle which had been slaughtered by the direct orders of the Government, to effect a public benefit. He gave out that the great argument for compensation was that it gave the farmers a motive for revealing the existence of the disease the moment it appeared among their cattle, and showed how necessary this was to prevent its spreading. He approved the provisions of the bill relating to slaughter, but hoped that the Government would reserve power to suspend compulsory slaughter, in case any of the experiments now being made should result in the discovery of an efficient cure.

Mr. J. S. MILL, while admitting the justice of the principle of compensation, asserted that as carried out by the bill it was excessive in amount, and that the burden of it was not fairly distributed. He entered into a long and elaborate argument as to the proportion which the compensation should bear to the loss, and contended that as the ultimate loss, by reason of the rise in price, would fall on the consumer, it was not just that the class which suffered the first loss should be compensated by the whole community. He argued that the chief hardship of the calamity to the farmer was the inequality of its incidence, and drew from that the conclusion that those who had been unfortunate should be compensated by their fellows in the same class who had suffered no loss.

Lord Cranbourne protested against the narrow view which regarded this question as one affecting merely the agricultural interest, and warned the House that foreign Governments, for their own interests, might find it expedient to stop the exportation of cattle, when the calamity would be brought home with much greater force to the consumer.

The discussion was continued by Mr. Ayrton, Mr. Acland, and Mr. Grenville; and, after a few words in reply from Sir G. Grey, the bill was read a second time.

Mr. Hunt's bill on the same subject was also read a second time, and the House adjourned at half-past five o'clock.

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15.

##### HOUSE OF LORDS.

A great portion of the sitting was occupied with questions and discussions as to the cattle plague, and a variety of returns were moved for. Among others,

The Marquis of SALISBURY moved for certain returns relating to diseased cattle imported into the port of London. He complained that cattle were continually slaughtered at Blackwall and other places which were entirely unfit for human food.

Earl GRANVILLE was understood to assent to the production of the returns inquired for.

##### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

HAMPSTEAD, HIGHGATE, AND CHARING-CROSS RAILWAY BILL.

On the motion for a second reading of this bill, Mr. DOULTON moved that this bill be read a second time this day six months, on the ground that it was proposed to give powers to purchase twenty-nine acres of Hampstead-heath.

Mr. W. S. POWELL seconded the amendment, which on a division was carried, and the bill thrown out.

##### CATTLE PLAGUE COMPENSATION.

Sir R. ANSTRUTHER asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether in those counties in which a rate for compensation had already been raised by voluntary assessment, those who have paid such rate will be relieved by the amount they have already paid from contributing to the rate to be raised by the local authority.

Sir G. GREY said there could be no possible reason why there should be a second collection of the rate.

##### THE PALACE OF JUSTICE.

Mr. COWPER, in reply to a question, said the selection of a design for the Palace of Justice would be by competition; but, as the preparation of these designs would require a protracted study of the subject, the competition would be restricted to a small number of architects.

##### THE CATTLE PLAGUE.

The House then went into Committee on the Cattle Diseases and Cattle Plague Bills. The Government measure was first considered, and the discussion of the various clauses occupied a considerable time. Ultimately clauses 19 and 20 were postponed.

On clause 21, which provides for the regulation of the movement of cattle, Mr. HUNT proposed an amendment to the effect that no cattle should be moved by railway before the 25th of March, or along any highway, river, or canal, except from field to field on the same farm, and then only for 200 yards.

After some discussion, the Committee divided—  
For Mr. Hunt's amendment .. .. . 264  
Against it .. .. . 181

Majority against Government .. 83

The amendment was then agreed to, soon after which the Chairman reported progress.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1866.

#### TOPICS OF THE DAY.

IN Parliament the great subject of discussion continues to be the cattle disease. The Government has, on the whole, had the best of the argument; but this has been less due to its own merits than to the weakness of its assailants. It was not, however, until the Cattle Plague Commission issued its report that the direct responsibility of the Government can be said to have begun. It appeared at one time as if Lord Cranbourne and his friends intended to ask for a vote of censure on the Government; and certainly the earnestness with which speaker after speaker on the Opposition side of the House took up the subject of the Rinderpest contrasted strangely with the comparative indifference of the Ministerial Benches. The Government, without being pressed in this manner, should of itself have recognised the necessity of uniform action throughout the kingdom. At present, however, a feeling of general relief has been caused by a conviction that the Legislature is at last about to do its utmost to bring about the extirpation of the dreadful disease. In the first instance, limitation is all that it can aim at; and, by means of a rigorous system of penalties,

the further progress of the plague can no doubt be checked. This might have been done long ago, but for the horror of "centralisation" from which all true Englishmen suffer. It has often been said that under the guardianship of local boards our poor were treated "like cattle;" and now even in the management of cattle the most dreadful incompetence has been shown.

The proposition of Mr. Thompson for the establishment and endowment of an American lectureship at the University of Cambridge, to be held by a member of the American University of Harvard, if it has not the importance of a political event, is at least interesting as a political sign. Some objections were, of course, made by a few bigots, among whom the Rev. Mr. Dodd was conspicuous by his buffoonery; but, in a Parliament of the University, called for the express purpose of considering the scheme, as well as in the Council of the Senate, there was a strong majority in favour of its adoption. The Rev. Mr. Dodd said there were millions of men in America whose principles were detestable, and that he must protest against their promulgation "among the ingenuous youth of the University of Cambridge." The public orator, however, had already anticipated and disposed of these objections. Of all Americans the members of Harvard University were, he remarked, the least likely to attempt a democratic propaganda; and of all places in England the Universities were the least likely for such an attempt to succeed in. In an interesting "fly-sheet" on the subject, the Rev. Charles Kingsley observed, in reference to this same point—certainly a very important one—that the proposition to establish an American lectureship came from that very class in America which regards England with most love and respect, which feels itself in increasing danger of being swamped by the lower elements of a vast democracy, and which has of late years withdrawn more and more from public life in order to preserve its own purity and self-respect. If it now holds out the right hand of fellowship to one of the most Conservative bodies in England, it does so because it feels itself a conservative element in its own country; and it is absurd to suppose that such men would go out of their way to become propagandists in England of the very principles against which they are struggling at home. So much has been said about the danger of "Americanising" our institutions, that many Englishmen have at last come to look upon free America with the same distrust that our Radicals of twenty years ago used to feel for despotic Russia. But if America is really such a dreadful country, the more we study it the better we shall be able to guard against whatever is most pernicious in its terrible "institutions." On the other hand, if we wish to know what good there is in America, instead of going to the *New York Herald* and to the speeches of stump orators in the style of Mr. G. F. Train for our information, let us take every opportunity of listening to what educated American gentlemen have to say on the subject. The lecturer deputed by Harvard University to represent his country before the University of Cambridge, while pointing out what there is to admire in American laws, will also feel it his duty to call attention to their weak points. Instead of being a powerful auxiliary of Mr. Bright, we shall be much astonished if the American lecturer does not prove one of his most formidable critics.

A curious case was tried last week, that of "Ryan v. Wood," which suggests some questions in connection with periodical criticism to which it is not very easy to give positive replies. The evidence in this action showed that, in the musical world at least, the distributors of praise and blame through the public journals, often associated with, and sometimes received favours from, those on whose performances they were expected to sit in judgment. There is, of course, no difficulty in deciding if a critic ought to accept presents, either in the form of gratuitous services or in any other shape, from those whom he may be called upon to criticise. The question is to what extent he has a right to be intimate with those to whom he stands in such delicate relations; and whether the literary reviewer and the writer of political articles ought not to be bound by precisely the same laws as the musical critic. Charles Lamb complained, a good many years ago, that the theatrical critics of his time had got too much into the habit of dining with the actors, and he remarked that what passed for a criticism was often "only a reminiscence of last Thursday's turbot and lobster sauce." He did not accuse critics of selling their honour for a slice of turbot and a mess of lobster. He merely pointed out that a critic who dined with an actor could not attack him in print directly afterwards. A literary critic who has just been entertained by an author might, in the same way, be suspected of inability to go home and write a slashing article on his host's latest book. How, too, is the pictorial critic to pass an impartial opinion on the works of the painter at whose hospitable board he has recently fed? and with what liberty can the political writer judge the conduct of the Minister or high official who has just entertained him? Reverse the position and let the critic be the entertainer. Still his hands are tied. There is a duty of host to guest, and you cannot ask a man to dinner one day and tell him the day afterwards—and, what is so much worse, tell the public—that you think his measures impolitic, his pictures unsightly, his books unreadable, or his performance on the stage intolerable. Perhaps the only critics who are absolutely independent and are likely to remain so are those numerous political writers who denounce in all freedom the Pope or the Emperor of Russia, and who are not likely to be called upon, complimented by letter, or otherwise tampered with by either of those Potentates.

#### SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE BETROTHAL of Princess Dagmar and the new hereditary Grand Duke of Russia will take place in the month of April, on the birthday of King Christian.

MR. BOXALL, R.A., who acted for the late Sir Charles Eastlake during his illness, has been appointed director of the National Gallery.

LORD KINGSDOWN will not sit again at the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. His Lordship will, however, sit on appeals in the House of Lords.

M. THIERS is said to be engaged on a work to be entitled "Histoire de l'Esprit Français."

THE SOVEREIGN of the Sydney Mint in Australia has been proclaimed legal tender in this country and in all British possessions.

HORNSEY-WOOD HOUSE, the well-known tavern, was sold on Tuesday in order to be cleared away for the formation of Finsbury Park.

THE experiences of the amateur casual of the *Pall Mall Gazette* have been dramatised at the Marylebone Theatre, under the title of "Life in a Work-house."

COMMISSIONERS FROM CANADA HAVE VISITED DEMERARA with the view of promoting commercial intercourse between the two colonies.

SNOWDROPS AND PRIMROSES have made their appearance in some parts of Dorchester earlier this season than has been known for many years.

THE POPE, in a speech delivered at the English college, lamented that England had forgotten her title of the "Holy Island," and trusted that she would yet serve the cause of "the true faith."

THE ROCHESTER RELIEF COMMITTEE has been dissolved. The balance in hand is £312, which is at the disposal of the Central Committee. The total amount distributed was £57,517.

THE WANATO, one of the Black Ball Line of ships, came into collision with another vessel in the Bay of Biscay a few days ago, and sank. The crew and passengers were saved.

WORKMEN have commenced to lay the basement for the restoration of the ancient Market Cross of Edinburgh, within the north inclosing rail of St. Giles's, very near to the spot where the cross was originally placed many centuries ago.

ADMIRAL PAREJA'S SUCCESSOR has raised the blockade of Coquimbo, and concentrated the Spanish squadron at Valparaiso and Caldera, which are now the only two Chilean ports blocked.

THE TRAITOR'S GATE AT THE TOWER, through which condemned prisoners passed, has for some time been in course of demolition, and has now been entirely removed.

THE BELGIAN SENATE has rejected, by a majority of thirty-three to fifteen votes, a motion for the abolition of capital punishment, though the proposal was supported by the Minister of Justice.

FRENCH OFFICERS OF IRISH EXTRACTION have received circulars begging the aid of their purses and persons in furtherance of the Fenian cause, to wrest their native country (Ireland) from the English invader.

OF ALL ROMAN CATHOLIC PERIODICALS published in this country down to about a quarter of a century ago there is not a perfect copy in the British Museum.

THE INQUIRY INTO THE LOSS OF THE LONDON was brought to a close on Wednesday. The report of the Court will not, of course, be made for some days to come.

VISCOUNT SANDON is to preside at the festival which is to take place on Wednesday, the 21st of March, in commemoration of the opening of the wards of the new Albert wing of the Victoria Park Hospital.

MESSRS. LEE AND NIGHTINGALE, newspaper correspondents of Liverpool, send out a second member of their staff to Jamaica by the steamer sailing to-day (Saturday) from Southampton.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE has graciously consented to preside at the 108th anniversary festival of the Orphan Working School, to take place on April 12.

THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN SAILORS' SOCIETY, which maintains the Sailors' Institute at Shadwell and employs missionaries amongst seamen at foreign as well as home ports, has been favoured with the following recent bequests:—From the late James Lyon, Esq., Clapham, £200; S. Porter, Esq., Witham, £100; Miss Miller, Harrow, £100; W. Le Lacheur, Esq., Regent's Park, £100; John Rogers, Esq., White Hart Court, £200; Captain Douglas, R.N., Aberdeen, £50; Miss Simpson, Cambridge, £50.

THE GRAND COUNCIL OF SWITZERLAND has inserted a clause in the penal code to this effect:—"Any person who shall have knowingly afforded help and aid to the perpetrator of a suicide shall be liable to an imprisonment of four years in a house of correction. The penalty may be commuted into a simple detention."

MR. FOLEY, R.A., has just completed the model for his bronze statue of Lord Herbert, to be erected in front of the War Office, Pall-mall. The figure, in peer's robes, is standing; the head downcast, absorbed in thought; the face partially supported by the half-closed right hand, while the left upholds the elbow of the former. The drapery folds are rich and varied, but so arranged as to sustain by their repose that sense of meditative abstraction centred in the head.

THE NEW UNION CHARGEABILITY BILL comes into operation on the 25th of next month. Thenceforward, therefore, there will be no more charging of each parish with its own poor, and, consequently, much less litigation and hardship in the matter of pauper removals. All expenses will be charged to the whole union, and will be met by a uniform rate through all the parishes comprised in that union.

MICHAEL L. SULLIVAN, of Champaign county, Illinois, U.S., has the largest farm in the world. It contains 70,000 acres, 23,000 acres of which are under fence and in active cultivation. Much of the work is done by machinery. He drives his posts by horse-power, cultivates his corn by machinery, ditches, sows, and plants by machinery; so that all his labourers can ride and perform their duties. Mr. S. gives employment to 200 farm hands, 200 horses, and a large number of oxen.

THREE SWISS PROFESSORS ascended the mountain of St. Théodule, between the Matterhorn and Monte Rosa, last autumn, with a stock of provisions and other articles, intending to pass the winter on the summit, for the purpose of making meteorological observations. The mountain is 12,000 ft. high, and the heavy snows have stopped all communication between the summit and the valleys below since Nov. 28. It is believed that they will be obliged to remain in this state of isolation until May or June.

THE QUEEN OF SPAIN has just presented a complete dress, consisting of tunic and mantle, to the Image of Nuestra Señora de Gracia (Our Lady of Grace), which is venerated in the church of the same name in the Plaza de la Cebada. It is stated to be not only a costume of very great value, but also an exquisite work of art.

DR. HENRY TRIMEN and Mr. W. Thiselton Dyer are collecting materials for a Flora of the county of Middlesex on the plan of the Cambridgeshire and Essex Flora. They will feel indebted to botanists who will send their local lists, notes of localities, or information of any kind connected with the subject; in the case of rare, critical, or doubtful species, the loan of specimens will be very acceptable. Dr. Trimen's address is 71, Guilford-street, Russell-square, London, W.C.; Mr. Thiselton Dyer's, Christ Church, Oxford.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—The arrangements for the congress of 1866 are now nearly complete. The congress will be held in London, and will commence on July 10 and last a week. The Very Rev. Dean Stanley will preside in the section of History; Mr. Boreford Hope, M.P., in the section of Architecture; and Dr. Birch, keeper of antiquities in the British Museum, in the section of Antiquities. Marquis Camden, K.G., will be president of the meeting. During the week the institute will visit Windsor Castle.

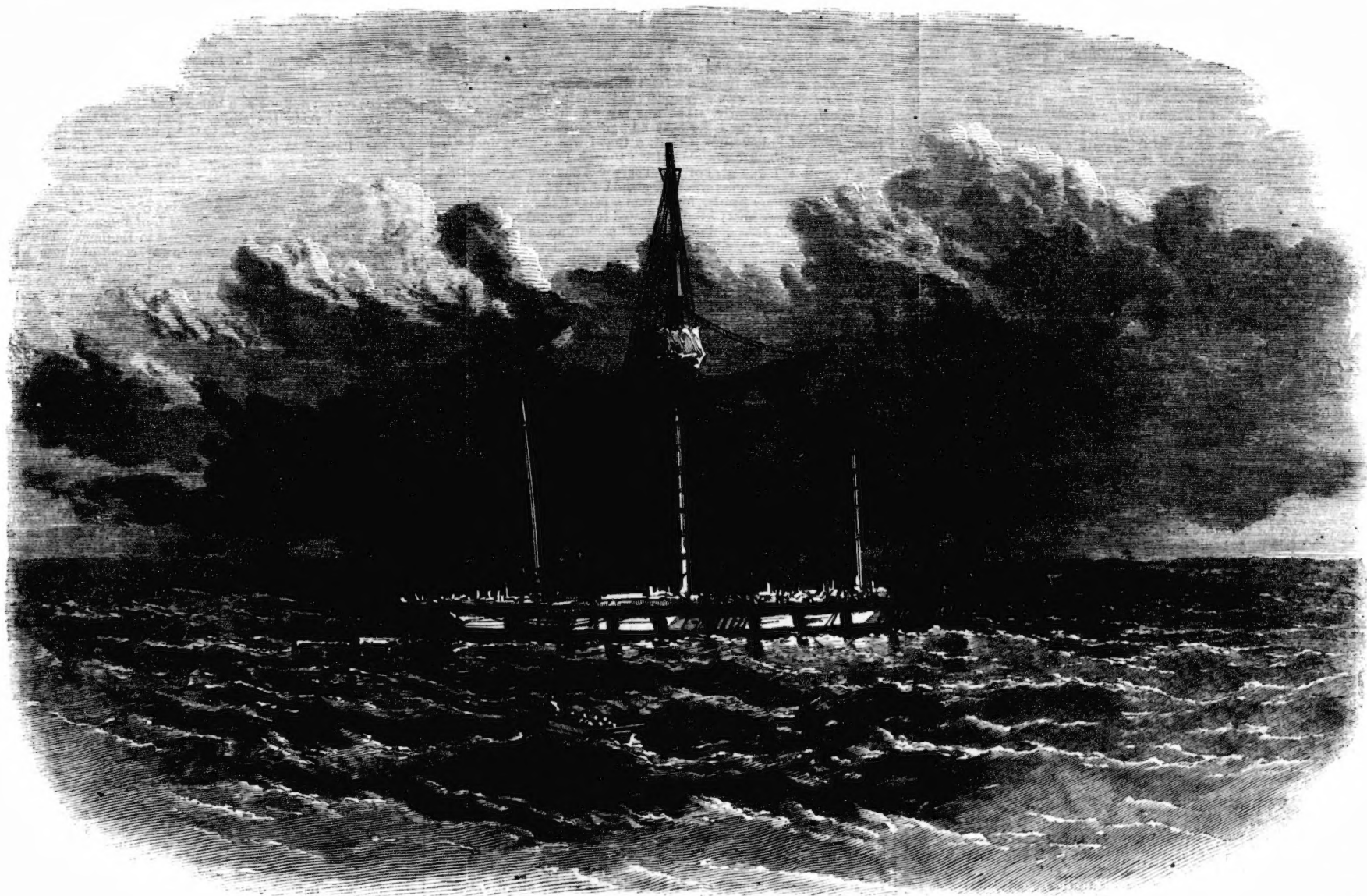
MURDER IN DUBLIN.—A man was killed on Friday night week in Dublin. His name is Clarke, and it seems that, while on the south bank of the Royal Canal near Margaret-place, he was set upon by three men, who knocked him down and then shot him. A policeman named Curran heard the shot and went to the place. He also was fired at, but, fortunately, the assassins missed their aim. Clarke died on Saturday night. It is believed that he was a Fenian, and that he was murdered by other members of the brotherhood who thought that he had given information to the police.

INDUSTRIAL DWELLINGS COMPANY.—The fifth half-yearly meeting of the Improved Industrial Dwellings Company (Limited) was held at the Mansion House, on Saturday last—Mr. Alderman Waterlow in the chair. On presenting the report he stated that, in April, 1863, the first improved dwellings on the open-gallery system and with many floors were erected in Finsbury. That which he himself had individually attempted had now been undertaken as an ordinary commercial operation by a company. The capital was fixed at £50,000, of which £40,000 had been called up. Of this £29,000 had been invested in the erection of dwellings, which were in full and complete occupation, and it was recommended that a dividend of five per cent should be paid. Out of £1700 they had received in rents since the formation of the company, they had only had twenty-nine shillings of bad debts—a fact which was, he thought, highly creditable to the working classes by whom the buildings were occupied. He was glad to say a bill would, he hoped, soon become law giving the Government power to lend money to this company, by the use of which they would be able to secure a dividend of at least five per cent. They had at this time to carry forward nearly twenty-five per cent, after paying the present dividend. The motion for the adoption of the report was seconded by Mr. Alderman Fennis; and, after some remarks by Mr. Briscoe, Sir Charles Fox, and others, the resolution was agreed to. The company are anxious to obtain ground, and to increase their capital very materially for the extension of their operations. It was also suggested, and generally concurred in, that there should be a reduction of the nominal value of the shares, in order to place them within the reach of working men.









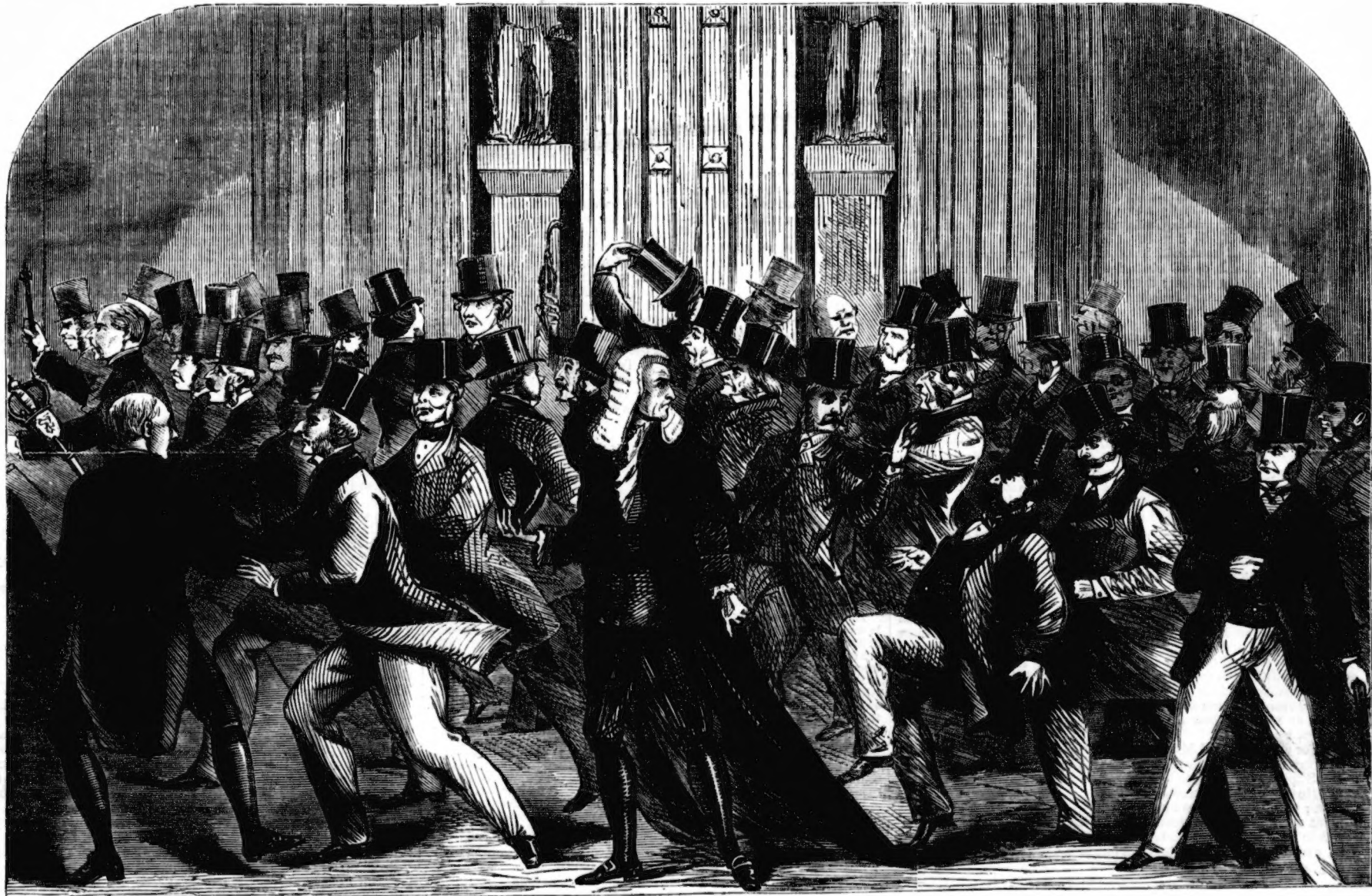
WRECK OF THE SHIP JANE LOWDEN.

**WRECK OF THE JANE LOWDEN.**

WE this week publish an Engraving of the ship Jane Lowden, the loss of which has been made remarkable by the terrible sufferings of her commander. The British Consular Chaplain at Batavia, writing from Nieuwe Diep, Holland, on the 1st inst., gives the following account of the affair:—"Last evening I was told that the *Ida Elizabeth*, a Dutch vessel, Captain Doren, from Java, just come into this port, had on board an English captain, whom she had picked up in the last stage of exhaustion at sea. Hastening on board, I saw the rescued man lying on a couch, his face pale and

thin, hands and feet bandaged, but with a calm and thankful countenance. He related the following facts as well as his weakened state would permit. He, Captain John Casey, was the commander of the *Jane Lowden*; owner, Mr. Thomas L. Seaton. The vessel, with seventeen men and a cargo of wood, was proceeding from Quebec to Falmouth, and encountered no less than four heavy gales, the last on Dec. 21, in lat. 46 deg. N., long. 33 deg. W., which completely disabled her, the fearful seas mounting 40 ft. high, such as he had never seen before, carrying off everything on deck, and every soul on board was washed out of her.

Nine of the crew were thus lost, but the captain and the rest of the men managed to regain the ship, notwithstanding it was dark, being six o'clock p.m. They all took refuge in the maintop, which measured 5 ft. by 4 ft. While there the vessel capsized, immersing them in the waves; but they held on, and she soon righted herself, the cargo being only of wood. The vessel was gradually driven to 17 deg. west longitude, during which time the poor sufferers, having endured the pangs of hunger, and being now tormented with a raging thirst, had the agony of seeing ten vessels in the distance successively pass on their course. Death from three causes stared



THE "UGLY RUSH" OF THE COMMONS TO THE BAR OF THE LORDS AT THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.—SEE PAGE 109.



them in the face—first, from the vessel breaking up, as she was hourly going to pieces; then from the chance of collision during the dark tempestuous nights; and, lastly, from starvation. In spite of the captain's prohibition, some of the men stole down while he was asleep during a temporary lull to try and slake their maddening thirst with the sea water, but this only increased their torment and brought on delirium. Two men became violent, and the captain was obliged to strap them down, in which state they expired. One poor lad (William Thomas) of nineteen died on the twelfth day after the vessel was struck, in a quiet delirium, calling frequently on his mother to give him a drink and to shut the door to keep out the cold, and, extending his hand to shake that of imagined near friends, he sank peacefully to sleep. Another, Hugh Rice, died about the eleventh day from exposure and the effects of drinking salt water. It may be well to give the names of the rest of the crew. Edwin Mabley, chief mate, leaves a destitute family at 24, Green-street, Plymouth. Samuel Bird, second mate, address not remembered, leaves a wife and children in England. John Abrey, aged eighty-six, cook, leaves a wife only. Henry Pope, address unknown, seventeen years of age, was the main support of his widowed mother, and the eldest of six children. Evan Davies, washed overboard, leaves a family at Pembroke Docks, Milford. Francis Martin, aged twenty-five or so, married, died after fifteen days' exposure and starvation; before becoming delirious he proposed eating the dead body of one of the crew, which the captain forbade. Alfred Bolton, who had run away from Liverpool, aged sixteen or seventeen, died delirious, after drinking salt water. John Pugh, who married a fortnight before sailing, was drowned. James Griffins; James Conolly, of Glasgow; Thomas Geak, all young lads, were drowned. William Maitland, of Plymouth, young and unmarried, died after fourteen days of exposure and starvation. Thomas Bowen, married, died after fifteen days. The last of the crew who died by the captain's side was James Beatt, the carpenter; he was hopeful till almost the last, talking within an hour of his death, which did not take place till the eighteenth day. As the poor fellows sank one after another, all dying apparently in their sleep, their bodies were dropped off the maintop on to the deck, but the last body the captain kept twenty hours by his side. The temptation to open a vein and drink the dead man's blood was strong upon him, but he firmly resisted it, and lingered on for ten more long, long days, sustaining life by drinking as much rain as he could collect by tying his cravat round the mast, and, when it became drenched, sucking it. The tar thus absorbed with the rain, he justly thinks, helped to preserve him from utter exhaustion. The fact, too, of his being better clothed than his crew, he thinks, may also account, humanly speaking, for his marvellous preservation. He wore three woollen shirts, two pairs of stockings, two pairs of trousers and sea-boots, three coats, one of which was waterproof, a cap, and waterproof hat.

"On the twenty-eighth night he laid himself flat on the maintop, as he expressed it, resigning himself to his doom, whatever it might be, perfectly conscious of his critical position, yet not losing all hope or his reason, though his brain became so weak that he often heard voices calling, sometimes in most piteous accents, 'Captain! Captain!' On one occasion, he said, he distinctly heard a voice say, 'Captain, your forecastle is blown away.' So distinct and clear was it that he exclaimed, 'Who are you?' and then, 'I can't help it.' He said that he still felt that the God who had extended His mercy to him so long could still save his life, and he again prayed that a vessel might come to his rescue. The following morning, the 18th of January, his patient hope was realised, for the *Ida Elizabeth*, unknown to him, had neared the wreck the previous night, with the intention of destroying next morning so dangerous an object. Captain Casey, having now for the first time sighted the ship, raised his feeble arm to display his colours. Captain Doren, on seeing this unexpected sign of life, had the exhausted man carefully conveyed on board the *Ida Elizabeth*, where, according to his prayer, a doctor was ready to receive him, who, with the captain and crew, showed him the sympathy and attention of brothers rather than strangers. In nine days they reached *Nieuwe Diep*. During the passage the doctor kindly wrote to Mrs. Casey, who is living at Padstow, Cornwall, and has a young family. The day after the arrival of the *Ida Elizabeth* Captain Casey was removed to the Marine Hospital here and placed in a most comfortable apartment, one assigned to naval officers. He is under the skilful treatment of Dr. Sachs and Dr. De Kander, who, with the attendants, show him every possible kindness and consideration. It is hoped that in a fortnight or three weeks he may be able to return to his home, and that his blackened, frost-bitten fingers and toes may be cured without amputation."

### THE STORY OF A VALENTINE.

VALENTINES have souls, of course. You all know that we have bodies. Mine was a very graceful, beautiful, aristocratic frame, decorated with exquisite lace, flowers, gems, and cut velvet, and I was odorous with the perfumes of early spring. I was no underbred thing, I can tell you, but a gay, sparkling, ethereal creature, the pride of my family, and of Mr. Hymen, in whose warehouse I first saw the light. He said I was fit for a specimen, and he wouldn't ticket me along with the rest at six-and-six, but that I should have a box to myself, for I was worth a guinea.

But Cupid, bless you! how little he knew about it! I'd lost my soul. Don't be shocked. I'll tell you what I mean. Of course Valentines (by which, and also of course, we mean proper Valentines like me, not low-bred ugly ones) have souls. Love is their soul; that first blushing, gushing, attractive, electric, ethereal, affinitive, exquisite, inexpressible essence of a first thrill of affection, which ends in a raving mad whirlpool of tumultuous emotion and a rampaging defiance of all obstacles and every rival. Never mind my seeming a little excited; the fact is it's my soul that's speaking now, and I sometimes suffer with an attack of rheumatism, a mental affection caused by a long course of verses composed of lines ending with sounds that are similar to the eye, but, oh, how widely different to the ear! Well, as I said before, Mr. Hymen was little aware that I had lost my soul when he said I was so beautiful. My soul, as above described, went in a burst of perfume into the middle fingers, and so straight up to the hearts of Tom Stipple and Margaret Pliford. They were both engaged at the time in decorating me with those ornaments of which I have already spoken. Tom Stipple was a young fellow of a very pretty taste, and it was his business to put the finishing touches to our toilets after Margaret had fastened on our dresses of lace and velvet; and they used both to put their heads together to consult on the subject of colour, for Valentines are very susceptible on that point, and a bad match is the worst thing that can happen to any of us. Tom Stipple had a very pretty taste, indeed; and he showed it by the way he sometimes stole a look at Margaret's pale face, and soft-brown eyes, and golden hair, that shone like spun glass under the great, flaring gas-burner in Mr. Hymen's warehouse. I think, somehow, that she knew when he did so, for at such times she grew a little shortsighted and looked quite close at the lace and velvet that she was cutting with her dainty little silver-handled scissors; but, whether or not, these looks were very frequent on the day that they were both engaged on me; and, as I have said before, their heads came very close together over and over again, till at last, while they were both looking at a bit of sky-blue satin and matching it with a lily of the valley, their fingers touched just over the heart which was my principal decoration, and then I felt my soul go like an electric spark, which flashed through them both in an instant and gave a slight report when it reached their lips, and the magnetic contact was made perfect by a kiss.

"For shame!" said Margaret, with a colour in her cheeks which beat my bunch of moss-roses all to nothing. "However could you, Mr. Stipple?"

"However could I keep from doing it so long, you mean," said Tom; and he would have repeated it but she kept him at scissors' point until he had explained himself, and then I saw that my soul was in both their eyes, while at the same moment Mr. Hymen came in, and my body was finished and put into a box smelling very strong of glue mitigated by patchouli.

I was sent away (at least my body was, my soul stayed behind) that very day, and found myself in a shop window in a fine street just on the edge of a very poor neighbourhood, where I was duly ticketed "very superior" and placed aslant in the window, the admired of all beholders. Barefoot boys and girls stood on the tips of their red, chilblained toes to get a look at me; fractious babies, unsuited by Daffy's elixir or gin and peppermint, were held up, struggling, to survey my glories; charming damsels in exuberant crinoline gazed on my perfections, innocently oblivious of the sidelong leers of male pedestrians, one of whom, the fumes from whose penny pickwick tainted the otherwise scent-laden atmosphere of the stationer's window, came and asked, impudently, what was my "figure." Whatever my figure might have been, he beat an ignominious retreat, with an assumption of indifference, declaring that I was a good deal "too high" for him; and I was glad of it: though I was only the corpse of a Valentine, I was glad of it. There was one pretty creature to whom I was shown upon whom I should have liked to bestow my heart (or rather my hearts, for I wore a pair of them tied together with a true-lover's knot). But I reflected that my soul was gone, and therefore felt no grief at finding myself packed up and consigned to a tall, high-collared, nutcracker-faced, wizened old bean, in a pinched-up hat and a whalebone walking-stick. I found out, from his accidentally meeting an acquaintance, that my new owner was no other than Sir Frogee Wood, a descendant of a Lieutenant-General whose estates had dwindled down to a small freehold somewhere in the Bog of Allan. I could see by his cunning eyes and his grey, overhanging eyebrows, and his self-satisfied smirk, and, above all, by his penny nose-gay, that he was an old adventurer on the look out for a matrimonial investment. A certain half-holiday look about his clothes, and particularly his boots, told me that much; and the general want of agreement between his hat and the rest of his garments showed that he was poor; but I was not, no I certainly was not, prepared for a third-rate boarding-house in the next street. There he took me, however, and, after directing me with the combined efforts of both hands to keep the writing steady, consigned me, as he fondly imagined, to the widow of a lamented alderman, whom it had been his good fortune to meet at Margate in the summer, where he had made her a present of a china inkstand which he had won in a raffle. If the boy in buttons, who figured as a "man in livery" in the advertisements of the boarding-house, had not had quite so many letters to deliver all might have gone well, but, as he had above thirty and knew that they were all "wolluntimes," he lost all the rest and popped me into the first private letter-box he came to. It was that belonging to the street-door of a house where dwelt the loves and graces, under the auspices of Mr. and Mrs. Adolphus O'Thello. He, the first cousin of an Irish member of Parliament, and therefore, of course, with a snug berth in the War Office; she, the object of his young affections. They had only been married a month, and the bride, in all the unsuspecting innocence of early wifehood, was tripping to the door to look for the coming of her adored Dolly when she heard me flutter into the letter-box. Oh, woe! to recount what followed; how, in guileless surprise she bore me to the elegant boudoir which a loving husband had furnished with so much unselfish care out of her marriage portion; how, gazing in rapt surprise upon my lovely form, she heard no swift footsteps on the stair—saw not the smile upon those lips which were just preparing to cry "boh," and thus frighten her into the loving arms of her own Dolly; how the smile changed to a savage frown, the ruthless hands snatched me from her trembling grasp, and then, seizing her by the back hair, brought her shrieking to the cruel feet. The candle was extinguished; all was darkness, suspicion, and horror, over which let me draw a veil, since I was trampled under a vengeful heel and flung out into the cold and dreary street. It was cold and dreary, but Mr. R. Peggio, the musician, was sitting looking out of his ground-floor window and smoking a cigarette as I alighted on the flower-pots just outside upon the sill. Long had he adored in secret, but had not yet dared to express his love for the object of his fond regard. The occupant of the first floor, that charming lady whose majestic form had so often led his wandering fancy from Corelli and had never brought him Bach, was possessed of a small independence; so he had conjectured from the remarks of the landlady, who regarded Miss Brannew's promise as equal in point of value to cash down, and who had actually been with her to the Bank to help to draw a dividend—though whether it had been so heavy as to require two to draw it she had never divulged.

Mr. R. Peggio had never till to-night had a single response to his ardent glances, his graceful bows, his serenades, his anonymous presents of vocal music; but now, coming, as it were, from the clouds, here was the reply to his long and simple devotion. Ah, ecstasy! ah, bliss! Beneath his sleepless pillow I was carefully spread out, the creases caused by the villain heel of the O'Thello tenderly smoothed by the hand of affection.

With what joyful alacrity, and in what an elaborate and becoming costume, did the panting suitor present himself before the object of his heart's desire on the following morning, bearing me in his hand!

Oh! hard, hard heart! Oh! cruel woman! It was passion and not early purr which fired that eye. Shame upon your proud disdain! She spurned him, and then, as that wouldn't do, and he persisted in staying to make wild appeals, and to insist on the evidence offered by my shattered body that she had at last declared herself, she rang the bell violently.

He had come in with a heart full of hope—he went out plunged in despair; he had come in like a lion and now went out like a lamb; he had come in with the milk—he had gone out with a policeman.

Yes, and not without the evidence afforded by half a crown did that functionary release his hold and allow him to regain his apartment. Here he threw himself, in a doubled-up condition and a paroxysm of fury, into an arm-chair, which resented such conduct by immediately breaking down with him. As he rolled upon the floor he caught sight of my poor defaced and emaciated body, and my end approached. With a howl of rage and hate he impaled me on a poker and thrust me into the flames, from which I soared upwards until I once more reached the free air of heaven.

My soul, however, is still with Tom Stipples and Margaret Pliford; for I hear they are to be married on May Day, and I'll stay with them all their lives if they will let me; for a life of love and beauty is the true service of St. Valentine. T. A.

**THE HOLBORN UNION.**—The Poor-Law Board have reported to them some more cases of the disregard of the officers or guardians of this union of the Houseless Poor Act. Poor people, houseless and destitute, if they answer to the pauper officials left in charge of the gate that they have lived in a London parish are told to go to their union, and are refused relief. Country tramps have a card thrust to them out of a wicket, giving them an order for a night's lodging, without bread for supper or any bread for breakfast. The neighbours complain that they are often aroused at night by the noise caused by gentlemen passers-by, who interfere to make the officials do their duty, and who in general only receive insolent answers from the paupers left in charge of the gate. In the case on Sunday night shelter was refused to people, and on Monday night as well. These complaints will be forwarded to the guardians, who have hitherto neglected to provide sufficient wards, and have not yet attempted to give the recipients of relief any labour test.

**THE EMANCIPATED NEGRO.**—Mr. Munro, the British Consul at Surinam, in a report to the Foreign Office, describes the immediate effect of emancipation on the negro slaves in the Dutch colony. On the 1st of July, 1863, the freedom of the slaves was proclaimed, and the rights and privileges of freemen were accorded to them. "The negro population received the boon without any great signs of exultation; the day passed over even with more stillness than a Sabbath. The agricultural labourers did not so readily turn out to work, and when they did, it was only to work what they pleased, and that generally was but poorly done. Many of the people, when the time of contracting with the owners of estates was appointed, left their former homes and took to squatting in the bush, and abandoned plantations and grounds, on the borders of creeks in the neighbourhood of towns, where they led a life of comparative idleness, of little use to themselves and less to the community at large, returning to a state of gross heathenism, practising and enjoying the superstitious African dances, with all their immorality. Their wants, being but few, are easily supplied from a bountiful soil, forests teeming with game, and the rivers, creeks, and swamps abundantly stocked with fish, which require but little exertion to procure. The negro population who have remained on the estates do as little work as possible, which tells greatly on the crops; they do little else than reap the fruits of former years' labour, planting but little for the future."

### THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

ON Tuesday night Sir George Grey introduced his promised oaths bill; and, if I understand him rightly, members, if his bill should pass, will no longer have to swear that the succession to the Crown "is and stands limited to the Princess Sophia, Electress and Duchess Dowager of Hanover, and the heirs of her body, being Protestants." This old lady, who died 150 years ago, at the advanced age of eighty-four, and was decorously buried, is now finally to be consigned to oblivion. For 150 years every member of Parliament, before he could take his seat—and all municipal officers and other functionaries, before they could take office—have had to gabble over her name; not one in a hundred of them, including members of Parliament, having the slightest notion who the Princess Sophia was, or how it came to be considered necessary for the preservation of our Protestant succession that they should, in this curious way, perpetuate her memory. Let me, then, before we part finally with this old lady, tell your readers something about her. The Electress of Hanover, or, more properly, of Brunswick and Lüneburg, was the youngest of the ten children of Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia, the daughter of James I. of England, and this is how she came to give a race of sovereigns to England. The direct line of succession failed, death swept away some of those who stood before this lady, and the others could not succeed to the throne because they were Roman Catholics. Failing, then, the direct line, we were obliged to go back to the old root, James I., and take up a new line, starting from the Queen of Bohemia, the daughter of the said James. But the Queen of Bohemia had nine children older than the Electress? Yes; but they either died without issue or were Roman Catholics. The Electress, as we all know, never came to the English throne. She died a few months too soon. She was struck by apoplexy in the month of May, 1714. Queen Anne of England died in the month of August following, when Prince George, the son of the Electress, succeeded to the throne as George I. The Electress was said to have been killed by certain letters from Queen Anne refusing to give her consent to a proposition that the Electress, as heiress presumptive, should come and reside in England. This is the story; but an old lady of eighty-four did not need much killing. Good old lady! little did she think when she, a young girl, was playing in her mother's palace at Prague, that she should become the root of a line of illustrious sovereigns which bids fair to stretch out to the crack of doom; and that her name should be mouthed by thousands and thousands of citizens of the greatest nation in the world. We have, however, probably nearly heard the last of her. Sir George Grey, with a stroke of a pen, has obliterated her name from the only memorial which kept it in our memories. And it is said that this bill is to be allowed to pass. Mr. Newdegate protests against this summary dismissal of the Electress Sophia to oblivion, but the House only laughed at the protest; and, I suspect, her doom is well-nigh sealed.

Up to the time at which I am writing the following election petitions have been presented. From William Christie against the return of William Forsyth for the borough of Cambridge, alleging that Mr. Forsyth is standing counsel to the Secretary of State for India, and therefore cannot legally sit in Parliament; from three electors of the borough of Bridgewater against the return of Henry Westropp, alleging bribery, personation, &c., and that Sir John Villiers Shelley ought to have been returned; from an elector against the return of Sir George Stucley Stucley, Bart., for the borough of Barnstaple, alleging bribery, corruption, &c.; from certain electors of Nottingham, and Mr. Charles Paget, a candidate, against the return of Sir Robert Jukes Clifton, Bart. This is a very formidable document, charging Sir Robert with almost every possible breach of election law. It occupies eight folio columns of close print. It is said that there is to be a counter-petition against Mr. Samuel Morley. From certain electors of Wexford against the return of Richard Joseph Dever, alleging bribery, &c. From Patrick Boyle Smollet against the return of James Stirling, for Dumbarton. This was a case of double return; but Mr. Stirling has retired, and the petition drops. From Henry Whitmore, against the return of Sir John Dalberg Acton for Bridgenorth, alleging bribery, &c.; the majority for Sir John was one vote. From two electors of Tonnes, against the return of John Pender and Alfred Seymour, alleging bribery, &c.; the other candidates were Colonel Dawkins and Captain Blaford Pim. From Mr. Staniland, the defeated candidate, against the return for Boston of John Wingfield Malcolm and Thomas Parry, alleging bribery, &c. From three electors of Reigate against the return of Granville William Gresham Leveson Gower, alleging bribery, &c.; the Honourable Edmund John Monson and Mr. George Richardson were the other candidates. From William Robert Seymour Fitzgerald, against the return of Robert Henry Hurst for the borough of Horsham, alleging bribery, &c. From three electors of Helstone against the return of Adolphus William Young, alleging bribery, &c.; the other candidate was Major Grylls. From two electors of Maidstone against the return of William Lee and James Whatman, alleging bribery, &c.; the other candidates were Edward Ladds Betts and John Hardlaw. Another petition from Bridgewater, signed by three electors, against the return of Alexander William Kinglake, alleging bribery, &c.

### THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

Have you had a look at the weekly papers of the last two Saturdays all round? If so, you must have been amused with the effect that remarkable paper of Mr. Arnold in the *Cornhill* has produced on minds of different orders. In the placards of one you see, in huge letters,

MR. MATTHEW ARNOLD AND THE PHILISTINES.

And what does the enlightened passer-by think of it? One man in a thousand has a vague idea of what Mr. Arnold means by a Philistine; one in ten thousand really knows the German use of the word. The rest probably think Mr. Arnold has been going into the books of Judges and Joshua, and writing something very exciting about Gath and Goliath, and Samson and Delilah. When the *Pall Mall* had in its placards the word "ANTHROPOMORPHISM," in large letters, I felt sure it was taken for a new sort of cannibalism which had broken out in Jamaica—for the enlightened passer-by has read his Shakespeare, and remembers "the Anthropophagi, and men whose heads do grow beneath their shoulders"—it's all the same concern, you know. By-the-by, would it be a bad idea for Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co. to collect and reprint all this Philistine literature in a volume, with a rejoinder from the "Intellectual Angel"?

The second number of the *Contemporary* is very varied. There is a very nice exhaustive paper on the late F. W. Robertson (by the Rev. W. F. Stevenson), and a charming one by Mr. Dowden, on "French Aesthetics," which is the "light" paper of the number. Perhaps we are to infer that the *Contemporary* does not intend, as a rule, to be any "lighter" than this? "The Philosophy of the Conditioned" is concluded, and Mr. Mill is undoubtedly hit in much of the criticism. Some of his errors were, indeed, quite obvious. But the general result is this: the accomplished author of these two papers no more understands Mr. Mill than Mr. Mill understands Sir W. Hamilton. What is required for mutual understanding and fair discussion is the stereoscopic vision of the poetic or quasi-poetic mind. In Mr. Dowden's paper there is a curious instance of the confusion that may be introduced into an argument by a printer's benevolent ardour. Read this:—"Is the science of aesthetics, consequently, futile? Yes, if it accomplishes nothing; unless it gives us, in phrases of the understanding, a perfectly adequate account of what such language is too pure a work of thought to contain." The first clause here is a truism; the second contains a contradiction in terms. What is the remedy for all this? Just strike out the semicolon—put no stop whatever—and the sentence is correct.

I do not know why; but several of the magazines were very late this month. The *Shilling Magazine* is good: Mr. Bonamy Price on "Reform" is interesting. So is Mr. Grove on the song in the "Princess." The *St. James's* is readable in at least two parts—"The



Lady's Mile" and "The Village Doctor." In *Temple Bar* we have—good in their proper kinds—Mr. Yates's "Land at Last;" the new story, "Archie Lovell;" and a capital paper on Gustave Doré. The *Monthly Packet*, I have before said, is very good. I wish it well, in spite of what is not to my taste in it. It is in the hands of really cultivated people. The letter on "Music" is a curious example of the sort of thing some people take for explanation. Just look here:—

## PHRASE IN MUSIC.

As to phrasing, the term applied to the resolving and executing of musical sentences. In grammatical works you will find these three terms of phrasing—the period, the section, and the phrase. To put this shortly and simply, I will just say the first, the period, is the complete independent clause, and always terminates on the keynote. The section and phrase are parts of the period.

The meaning of all this might have been put in thirteen words; allow, say, ten more for a reference to an illustration in some well-known piece of music, and you would then have had about twenty-five words, instead of about sixty.

## THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The production of Kotzebue's dreary "Stranger" at DRURY-LANE THEATRE, on Monday last, and of a new comédietta, "A Romantic Attachment," at the HAYMARKET, on Thursday, are the only theatrical events of the week. Of the latter I must write next week; of the former I am in a position to speak at the present moment. There must be some peculiar fascination in a legitimate five-act play; for, although everyone abuses it, everyone goes to see it—perhaps on the principle that induces crowds to flock to see a notorious criminal hanged. At all events, the first performance of "The Stranger" attracted an enormous audience, who were prepared to honour, on demand, all the calls made by Mr. Phelps and Mrs. Herman Vezin on their tears, and by Mr. Barrett and Mr. Belmore on their laughter. Mr. Phelps's impersonation of the deceived husband is simply Manfred in top boots. Mrs. Herman Vezin's acting in the last scene was really natural and pathetic; and I must congratulate Mr. Belmore on his ingenuity in contriving to extract some fun from the commonplace fooleries that are placed in the mouth of Francis. By-the-way, I want to know what there is in the position of a deceived husband to induce him to wear that preposterous round black hat, a yard in diameter, with which The Stranger's head is ordinarily clothed? It was my misfortune to occupy a box on the second tier, over the stage; and from that position Mr. Phelps looked more like a perambulating blot than a conscientious tragedian.

Miss Ada Cavendish is engaged at the HAYMARKET, and made her first appearance at that house on Thursday last.

I hear no news of Mr. Kenny's version of "La Belle Hélène," which has been announced in the ADELPHI bills for so many weeks past as being "in active preparation and about to be produced."

I understand—but I will not vouch for the truth of the rumour—that Mr. Horace Wigan has not yet had enough of Messrs. Best and Bellingham, and that they are engaged to write the next burlesque at the OLYMPIC. Perhaps, from Mr. Wigan's point of view, he is right. If he finds that magnificent scenery and dresses suffice to fill his theatre every night, he can scarcely be blamed if he pays little or no attention to the quality of the mere dialogue which forms the excuse for their introduction. If he hears no laughter, he hears plenty of applause, which, in a manager's eyes—or, rather, ears—is every bit as good.

## FINE ARTS.

## THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.

This exhibition has always been distinguished rather for its faults than its merits, but this year it is worse than usual. Of the little body of high-class painters which generally goes far to leaven the mass of mediocrity, several are conspicuous by their absence, and there are few, if any, new comers whose advent helps to raise the quality of the gallery. We are rather below than above the mark when we say that if one half of the pictures had not been hung it would have been a benefit to the institution, and, certainly, a kindness to the visitors.

In the North Room one of the best figure-subjects is Mr. Yeames's "Young Royalist" (198)—a golden-haired boy holding his father's morion—a solidly-painted picture, gracefully composed and agreeably harmonised in colour. Mr. John Gilbert's "Trumpeter" (76) is marked with all that great artist's vigour, and with all his unmistakable manner. Mr. Ludovici's "Toper's Dilemma" (197) is as full of merit as it is of humour. There is a splendid indecision about the good fellow; but it is plain to see that the result will be his return to the inn parlour. "Oriental Writing" (70), by Mr. Boehm, is a clever "study"—indeed, rather more than a study in effect. Mr. Dicksee's style is too well known to need any comment—its pretences are not likely to be improved upon, or its affectations corrected. There is much that is pleasing, as well as clever, in "Othello and Desdemona" (2), though it is by no means an illustration of Shakespeare; while "Titania" (26) is a charming female head, call it what you please. Mr. Bedford's "Lullaby" (17) is unequal; the child is capital, but the mother's figure wants relief, and the colouring approaches dulness. Mr. Frost's "Nymph and Cupids" (3) are cold and blue. "Sunday at Home" (9), by Mr. Soden, is a quiet, little, unpretending study, with some capital work in it, and there is a nice open-air freshness about Mr. Liddendale's "French Fish-Girl" (18).

Mr. J. T. Peel, in his "Cherry Ripe" (35), and Mr. G. Earl, in his "Romp" (51), are aiming at the breadth and ease which distinguish Mr. Sant's pictures; but with no great success beyond reminding us that Mr. Sant is not represented in the gallery, and that his brother, whose clever landscapes have of late years attracted attention here and elsewhere, is also absent.

Mr. G. Leslie's "Frozen Out" (54) is a bright frosty bit of nature, with some excellent handling: for instance, the painting of the fur cloaks of the fair damsels who are feeding the aquatic birds, driven out of their element by the ice. Mr. Edwin Long's "Anthem" (62) is a clever essay in the school of "Philip of Spain," but has originality too.

Mr. F. Weekes has two or three pictures in this room, of which the best is "Not Yet Captured" (186), a little picture of a fugitive moostrooper swimming his horse through a flood, while his pursuers take pot-shots at him. With the mention of "Loitering" (88), by Mr. T. Gray, a picture of promise; Mr. Nicholls's "Galway Girl" (116), a clever little head; Mr. Lucas's "Going to the Fair" (201), a fine touch of character; and Mr. J. Green's well-painted "Sham Fight" (167), we have exhausted all the figure-work worthy of notice—unless we mention Mr. Pope's "Little Children" (175), to remind him that dirt is not shadow.

There are some pictures of animals in this room which deserve a word of praise. Mr. H. Weekes's "Old Moke Grey" (23) and "Humble Friends" (105), a group of seaside donkeys, would not disgrace Landseer. There are two clever little bits by Mr. Keyl, "Rest" (27) and "Calling her Lamb" (12); and we may also commend Mr. Luker's "Danger Near" (65); Mr. Coultery's humorous "Dissecting-room" (155), where three puppies are operating on a sawdust doll; Mr. Lutyan's "Study from Life" (187) of a grey hunter; Mr. Bottomley's "Beagle Puppy" (203); and Mr. Horlor's "Playmates" (211). In this class, too, we must, we suppose, include M. Chaigneau's "Leaving his Farm" (42), a farmer driving his flock along a lane; but it is so evenly painted that it is difficult to say whether the artist should rank as a painter of animals, of figures, or of landscape, for he is equally happy in each.

Of landscapes there is more to praise in the North Room. Such pictures as Mr. Niemann's "Whitby Harbour" (5), Mr. T. Danby's "Llyn Gwynnant" (22), Mr. Rose's "Cottage Homes" (100) and "Kentish Lanes" (125), Mr. Hargitt's "Ben Lomond" (113), and Mr. Walter Field's "New-mown Hay" (163) would raise considerably the standard of merit in any exhibition.

Mr. Cooke, R.A., is an exhibitor this year. "The Arrival of Otho, ex-King of Greece, at Venice" (1) is in his best style. "The Triassic Rocks at Blue-Anchor" (112) lacks warmth, although cleverly painted. There is much truth about "Queen Mary's Well" (44),

evidently open-air work, by Mr. Fraser; and the same fidelity to nature is observable in Mr. Oakes's "Waiting for the Tide" (122), Mr. Dawson's "Southampton Water" (168), and Mr. I. Walton's "Derwent-water and Skiddaw" (209).

Of Mr. Mignot's "Table-Lands of Rio Bamba, Ecuador" (35) is impossible to speak in too high terms. It abounds in technical excellencies, and is treated with the poetic spirit this technical artist infuses into all his work. Mr. Edwin Hayes, too, keeps his deserved prominence among our marine-painters in "Off Tantallon" (183). Mr. Melby also asserts his position well in "Kynance Cove" (69) and "Longships Lighthouse" (28). The colour of the sea in the latter may appear doubtful to those who have not seen it under certain atmospheric conditions off the Land's End, but it is curiously true.

In the Middle Room a spirited and masterly picture, "Our French Watering Place" (225), by Mr. Lionel Smythe, will, we think, attract attention to a hitherto little-known artist. We shall hope to see more of his work in this style. Mr. Beavis's "King's Cavalry at Naseby" (249) is worthy of his reputation; while Mr. Houston's "Hans Snaphans" (283) will do credit to the Scottish Academy, of which he is a member.

Mr. Perugini's "Reading Lady" (288) is a clever *tour de force*, but that is all; the result is curious rather than pleasing. There is much sound painting and an eye for grace of colour and composition in the "Glaucus and Nydia" (271) of Mr. Topham, jun.

Mr. Lucy's "Margaret of Anjou and the Robber" (328) is not the best work of the artist that we have seen. Mr. Crawford's "Good Old Times" (353), a highwayman stopping the family coach, is spirited in design and sound in execution. "Buy My Groundsel!" (411), by Mr. Powell, who attracted attention by similar subjects last year, is carefully studied and cunningly handled. "Coming from the Fishing-boats" (404), by Mr. J. Morgan, is another faithful transcript of nature. "Capit" (391) and "Psyche" (374), by Mr. Dicksee, do not please us; the painting of the flesh is blue and opaque—a strange fault for one who knows how to blend his carnations as Mr. Dicksee does. We can only give a passing word to Mr. Long's "Gitanitas" (256), Mr. A. W. Cooper's clever "Toilet" (284), and Mr. F. Weekes's "Birds of Prey" (295). Mr. Cave Thomas's "Return" is well drawn, but too smooth in colour, while it lacks lifelike expression, and is too exaggerated in the forms of flowing drapery. The pink scarf of the prodigal might be painted from crumpled paper.

Mr. Herring is represented by some good "Horses Feeding" (217), Mr. Aster Courboud by some unskipped "West Highland Scots" (298), Mr. Harry Hall by "Rough and Ready" (315), doubtless a portrait.

We must reserve our notice of the other portions of the exhibition till next week.

## Literature.

*A History of the Gipsies, with Specimens of the Gipsy Language.* By WALTER SIMSON. Edited, with Preface, Introduction, Notes, and a Disquisition on the Past, Present, and Future of Gipsydom, by JAMES SIMSON. London: Sampson Low and Co.

This book, though evidently the fruit of much painstaking labour and minute research, is somewhat disappointing. We promised ourselves much pleasure from a perusal of it, but have found it very dry reading indeed. This arises from two causes—first, that the materials are badly arranged; and, second, that they are worked up in the most thoroughly Dryasdust style. A picturesque subject, instead of being treated in a picturesque way, and thereby made interesting as well as instructive, is spoilt by total want of imagination, and by an aridness of style that is most provoking. We looked to have had a book as wildly picturesque as the habits, appearance, and character of the gipsies themselves were; and we get long extracts from the "Scots Acts" and the records of the Scottish courts, served up, too, in the exact language of the originals—spelling, Scotticisms, legal verbiage, and all. This is annoying, as it exhibits a total lack of skill in author-craft and makes the results of an immense amount of patient research positively repulsive, instead of, as it might have been, highly attractive. The history of a people—whenever they may have originally come, whether from Hindustan or in the wake of the Israelites from Egypt—who have lived for centuries in the midst of the nations of the West without ever amalgamating with them; who have been with their neighbours but never of them; who have adhered to their wild predatory habits, their wandering life and their savage nature, under all circumstances; who could neither be civilised nor extirpated; whose kindness could not tame nor Draconian laws intimidate; who had their own systems of life, their own rulers, their own laws, their own language, their own peculiar callings, irrespective of the character of the peoples among whom they dwelt; who were known to be habitual thieves, often murderers, and who were yet in many cases not only tolerated and protected, but mingled with on terms of familiarity and equality by respectable persons and even magistrates, as was the case with the bailies of Linlithgow and the chiefs of the gipsy-colony in their neighbourhood; who even in all countries retained in a marked degree their distinctive characteristics of form, feature, and complexion: the history of such a people as this—and all this is true of the gipsies—is one of the most interesting themes, and involves one of the most difficult problems, to be found in the whole range of profane history. But the Messrs. Simson help us but little to a comprehension of such singular phenomena. Our authors—especially Mr. James Simson, who seems to have pondered his subject till he got somewhat dazed over it—propound certain crotchets—we cannot call them by any other name, for they are not explanations, nor are they consistent theories—and a huge mass of undigested facts; and there they leave us, just as much in the dark as to the origin and causes of the peculiarities of the gipsies as we were before. We are treated to dry facts and dogged assertions again and again repeated; but we look in vain for rational generalisation, sprightly narrative, or even, in any degree commensurate with the wealth of the subject, amusing anecdote. What a fund of the latter there must be floating about the border counties of England and Scotland, where the gipsies most did congregate! And yet we have here but a meagre gleaming of the rich harvest. The book before us contains excellent materials for a history of the gipsies; but it is not itself such a history as we should like to see, and we hope some other writer better qualified for the task will take up the theme, and give us a book that can be read with both interest and pleasure.

Before quitting the subject we may refer to one or two points on which, as we think, Mr. J. Simson, the editor and annotator, seems to have become crazed. He will have it that the gipsies never divulge their language, and, from the meagre specimens given, this would seem to be true; but we suspect the real reason to be that they had no definite language to divulge; at least not in later ages. They had a slang peculiar to themselves, which for obvious reasons they carefully concealed from the knowledge of others; and that is about the gist of the matter. Again, we are asked to believe that the least intermixture of gipsy blood carried with it a tendency to gipsy tastes, character, and mode of life, to the entire ignoring of all other influences. It is much more probable that decent people with a gipsy taint concealed the fact, and that only scamps revealed it and took to gipsy ways. In strange inconsistency with the notion just alluded to, we are assured that many of the most respectable families in Scotland bear gipsy names, and must, therefore, be of gipsy extraction; but Mr. Simson forgets that these families do not exhibit gipsy characteristics, but are very worthy members of society; and that his brother tells us that the gipsies, when under ban, took the names of neighbouring families, generally those of landed men; the rational conclusion being that the gipsies borrowed the names of respectable families, not that the latter inherited gipsy designations. It is thus easy to understand why numerous gipsy families bore the names of Baillie, Gordon, Stewart, &c. But Mr. James Simson has become so enamoured of the gipsies that he seems disposed to do for them what Mr. Disraeli, with more reason, has done for the Jews—and to

find gipsy blood in the veins of every man who attains to eminence in all walks of life. This, we cannot help thinking, is carrying things a little too far; and with that remark we quit the subject.

*In the Silver Age.* By HOLME LEE, Author of "Maule Talbot," "Sylvan Holt's Daughter," "Kathie Brande," &c. New Edition. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

We all of us know Holme Lee as a storyteller, and some of us have already made her acquaintance as an essayist in a former edition of this charming book, which we are glad to see in its new dress and in one volume. "Essays"—that is, dispersed meditations, the words quoted on her titlepage, very well describe the lady's book, which is delicately modest in its pretensions, and bears a dedication to a Sister.

The first thing that strikes the reader of this book is, that the style has music in it. It is not powerful or epigrammatic, and rarely puts old words in new lights; but it is always sweet and rhythmical, with plenty of liquids, and a proper variety in the use of vowel-sounds. Take the very first sentence:—"Morning by morning, all through the bitter winter weather, a trim little robin redbreast has sung at my window a plaintive song—his one sweet note in the frozen silence." The elements of this sentence are commonplace enough; but the arrangement of the words is remarkable, and snatches a grace beyond the reach of art. There are (I think) nearly forty effective liquids in this short passage; and in the last eighteen words the sibilant, hard or soft, occurs nine times, with the happiest effect and just in the right places. Here is another really exquisite sentence:—"In May the splendour of sunshine almost dazzles our eyes, and the luxuriant overgrowth of flowers confuses them; but in October one gleam on a russet leaf is precious, and one bud in a wilderness is lovely." Now and then we have, however, a break-down, which a little more intensity of care would have prevented:—"Night is creeping now with muffled footfall from out the ranks of trees; gliding over field and hollow glen and steep hillside;"—so far is good, but what follows is bad—"shrouding the world in its gradual purple gloom." "Gradual purple gloom" is nice; but the "shrouding" is a conventionalism, for which the previous metaphor had left the mind quite unprepared. One had fancied a vague, dark image, stealthily creeping from between the trunks of large, rustling black trees, and

putting forth a charm

Of woven paces and of waving hands,

which darkened the path before and behind; but the "shroud" plunges us fathoms deep down in commonplace. However, we have said enough to hint to intelligent readers, who do not know her, that Holme Lee is a writer of *fine*, though not vigorous, quality; and we can cheerfully recommend her essays. Her writing has always a soul in it. It may sometimes want point or novelty, and we find it quite off the track when any little theory has to be formed; but in its own quiet vein of domestic-prose-lyric it is good.

But we must add a word of warning. Holme Lee will disappoint those who have not a ready, incessant flow of sympathy with what is morally intense, and she sometimes even asks you to feel devoutly. We do not mean that she herself is an intense writer. She is not; but she meditates in the light of reflections cast by intense moods; and there are plenty of good, clever people in the world who would find her tiresome. An illustration may help to make this plain. Lord Byron was very fond of Rossini, but, unless our memory fails us, he did not care for Handel: certainly he would not have cared for Mendelssohn. Now, readers who would not care for Mendelssohn will feel that Holme Lee is tedious, because (among other reasons) they will not be able, out of their own resources of recollected emotion, to supplement her occasional lack of energy.

We must repeat what we said before, in noticing Holme Lee, that the love-story of *Molière* should have been (in our opinion) told in full or else left alone.

*Richard Cobden, the Apostle of Free Trade: his Political Career and Public Services.* A Biography. By JOHN MCGILCHRIST, Author of "Life of Lord Dundonald," "Men Who Have Made Themselves," &c. London: Lockwood and Co.

This life of Richard Cobden has reached us a considerable time after publication, and therefore might be thought a little late for notice, if anything connected with the great apostle of free trade ever could become out of date. We therefore think that we shall still be doing a service to those of our readers who have not already perused the volume when we recommend them to do so without further delay. Mr. McGilchrist has already proved himself a good biographical writer, and perhaps in none of his previous efforts has he been so successful as in dealing with the life and career of Cobden; although, for obvious reasons, his book can make no pretensions to being a perfect work. The plan which he laid down for himself was the wise one of allowing the subject of his book to tell his own story as far as was possible, and the idea has been closely adhered to. In order to carry out the plan proposed, all the utterances of Mr. Cobden, in Parliament and elsewhere, were carefully examined, and those passages selected for citation which had an autobiographical character. We thus have not only a biography but an autobiography of the great freetrader—not merely a history of the public career, but of the inner mind, of Cobden. With such a man, whose power was seen more in influencing the convictions of others than in direct action on the legislation of the country—whose power, in fact, was that of mind acting on mind—this is the true principle of dealing. We shall by-and-by, we believe, have a biography of Cobden drawn up from authentic sources and under the direction of his friends. That, of course, will be the standard book on the subject; but in the mean time Mr. McGilchrist's work is a good forerunner.

*The Sixth Work; or, The Charity of Moral Effort.* By S. MEREDITH. London: Jackson, Walford, and Hodder.

The object of this little work is to stimulate efforts for the reclamation of the criminal classes, and the means proposed are mainly increased provision for education and training. The sources of our criminal population are well traced out. The ignorance, depravity, and temptation in the midst of which numerous young persons grow up, the evil example of parents, the contaminating influences of companionship, and the next to insuperable difficulties under which discharged convicts labour, are all clearly and forcibly stated. Christian teaching is advocated, and the formation of industrial training institutions is suggested. The subject is large and interesting, and the book before us is well calculated to arouse attention and to stimulate endeavour in the direction indicated. We cannot go into the theme at length, but must content ourselves with commending the volume to public attention and by quoting the following passage in reference to the question of rendering convict labour remunerative:—

"The deep-seated prejudice against the competition of such labour with that of the working classes operates powerfully on their minds; and for fear of exciting it, the attempt to carry out such a system of discipline as would compel criminals to earn their support is postponed until better public opinion prevail on the subject. Meantime, this postponement is working all the evil of which idleness and fulness of bread are capable; and charity urges with all its force that there is no security in any course but that of insisting on the practice of the great virtue of honest industry."

"In the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat bread," said the Creator; whether the sweat is produced by mental or bodily toil, there is to be a certain individual effort made in order to fulfil the law of God in the matter of providing for our needs. It is this exact law which the criminal breaks. He will satisfy his desires without complying with this ordinance; and it is only by obliging him to obey it that we reduce him to moral order—a condition alone to be attained by the direct application of labour to the purposes of life. When those who have refused to work, and who instead have violated the decalogue, are brought to perform, even compulsorily, the common duty of man, a great point in morality is gained; and a lesson is taught, in the most impressive manner, that enjoyments must be possessed or acquired under the law of right, which pledges the individual to the devotion of his energies to a certain object, and to the restraint of his tendency to seize on and appropriate that whereon he bestowed no labour."

M. VICTOR HUGO'S NEW NOVEL, "Les Travailleurs de la Mer," is being translated into English by Mr. Moy Thomas.





STARTING OF FOUR HUNDRED FEMALE EMIGRANTS FROM NEW ENGLAND FOR WASHINGTON TERRITORY, OREGON



# THE EMIGRATION OF WOMEN FROM NEW ENGLAND TO WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

It is always difficult for the inhabitants of a little island—however "right" or however "tight" it may be, in the words of a popular song—to imagine the vast extent of a continent like America.

A movement just set on foot by Mr. Asa S. Mercer, a graduate of Franklin College, Ohio, will serve to suggest to our readers not only the magnitude but the immeasurable resources of the United States, where new settlements not yet perfectly colonised serve to reduce the inequalities of population, by receiving emigrants from within that older boundary which comprises the towns of New England.

The territory of Washington, for instance, was actually only formed in 1853, from the northern part of Oregon; and its capital, Olympia, is scarcely known in Europe, even by name; and yet this fertile and promising colony, of 120,000 square miles of territory, is traversed by a range of mountains and intersected by the Columbia River. Until quite lately the population consisted almost entirely of the remaining Indian tribes; but the pioneers have been active and enterprising, and a new State will grow up there before we have fairly got the names of the towns and districts into our maps and gazetteers. Five years ago Mr. Mercer made a pleasure-excursion to this new region of Washington; and, having observation, which with extended view was able, if not to "survey mankind from China to Peru," could yet see what was wanted in a territory rich in natural resources. What was really wanted was, in fact, population and all that is included under the rather general term of domestic institutions; and Mr. Mercer discovered that, the first pioneering being over, the usual result was apparent in the great disproportion of the number of men and women. Nine to one was the average, and even in such a meagre population as that of Northern Oregon this was a disadvantage which no new colony could overcome. As Mr. Mercer was, soon after his visit, chosen President of the Washington Territory University (for they had got that far, and in America the university is almost sure to follow the establishment of a chapel, a church, a "bar," and a dry-goods store), he had still more opportunity of observing that the emigrants from the eastern States were young men, for the most part of respectable habits, who came to improve their fortunes in a new and fertile country; and he believed that he would do well in his capacity of president of the college to institute some means of raising the standard of female education in the colony. For this purpose he went to New England two years ago in order to procure teachers, and induced twelve ladies to emigrate in that capacity. The experiment was eminently successful, but the teachers were attractive, and their official duties terminated by their taking new pupils in the shape of husbands. New teachers were, therefore, necessary—especially in prospect of an increased population—and again the President went northward from Kansas to Maine with the intention of promoting female emigration to Washington, and inducing teachers or workwomen to go out to the new territory. He was so successful that, the Government having offered him assistance, he chartered a steamer, on board which 750 women were to be conveyed to that destination; but, at the last moment, the Government confined its promise to sanction, and would not pay the expenses. This caused some delay, during which a large number of the intending emigrants returned to their homes; but, after a short time, private friends came forward with the necessary funds, and 400 women have started in the good steamer Continental for the land where, it may be hoped, they will become the mothers of a part of that new nation which will one day be known as Oregon.

## THE BALL AT THE MINISTRY OF WAR, PARIS.

WHERE is luxury to stop? Thank goodness some sort of check has been given to the overwhelming extravagance of French society by the reduction of crinoline at the Tuileries; but this is but a very small part of the reformation needed to put an end to the desolation which visits people who must be in "the world," and whose incomes are exhaustible. And yet Paris—that is to say, the world, for, of course, there is no world out of Paris—dances, dines, drinks, dresses, and — one is tempted to defy the proprieties, and

say what Paris remarks about the expense. At all events, it doesn't always defray the expense, and so it vents its spleen in expletives, and then dines, drinks, dresses, and dances again.

Night after night, or rather morning after morning (for they have added late hours to their other vices in the French capital), the sound of the band and the clink of champagne glasses (they decanter their champagne at the Imperial parties), and the rustle



THE LATE PRINCE OTHO OF ITALY.

and tinkle of silk and gold and jewelled grelots are heard. There is nothing after all to describe in these assemblies except the dresses, and they are not easily catalogued, especially when one lady comes out as Noah's ark, or, at all events, with a model of that primeval vessel on her head, and little gold and silver animals running in pairs all over her back hair, and her flounces, and the trimmings of her dress.

These are some of the modern extravagances which utterly supersede the ordinary Venetian nobleman, the *debardeurs*, the *poupetts*, the postillions, the Louis Thirteens, Fourteens, and Fifteens, and the other well-known and indifferently-respected characters of such occasions. Happily, inventive genius is a rare gift, and so there are only a few of these wonderful spectacles of the art of outlay on a fancy dress.

Perhaps the ball just given at the Ministry of War is as good an example of what may be done in high style as anything that has happened for some time past. It was not a fancy ball, but it was a great deal more splendid; for there were only enough black coats to act as foils to the brilliant uniforms and blaze of gold and silver lace, to which the officers of the Paris garrison eminently contributed. The most beautiful part of the whole arrangement was the decoration of the gallery communicating with the various rooms. Here a wealth and profusion of plants and flowers had been brought which made the whole scene a thing of beauty and a joy for ever. It is true, they could not or would not dispense with suits of arms exhibited here and there; and the introduction of stuffed wild beasts into a party where people were expected to have an appetite was to be deprecated. But then one could look at the fountains, and sniff the odour of the delicate flowers in the vain attempt to distinguish which was natural and which artificial essence in the air, and both the champagne and the truffles were good; so what would one have—"in order to live it is necessary that one should suffer."

## THE LATE PRINCE OTHO OF ITALY.

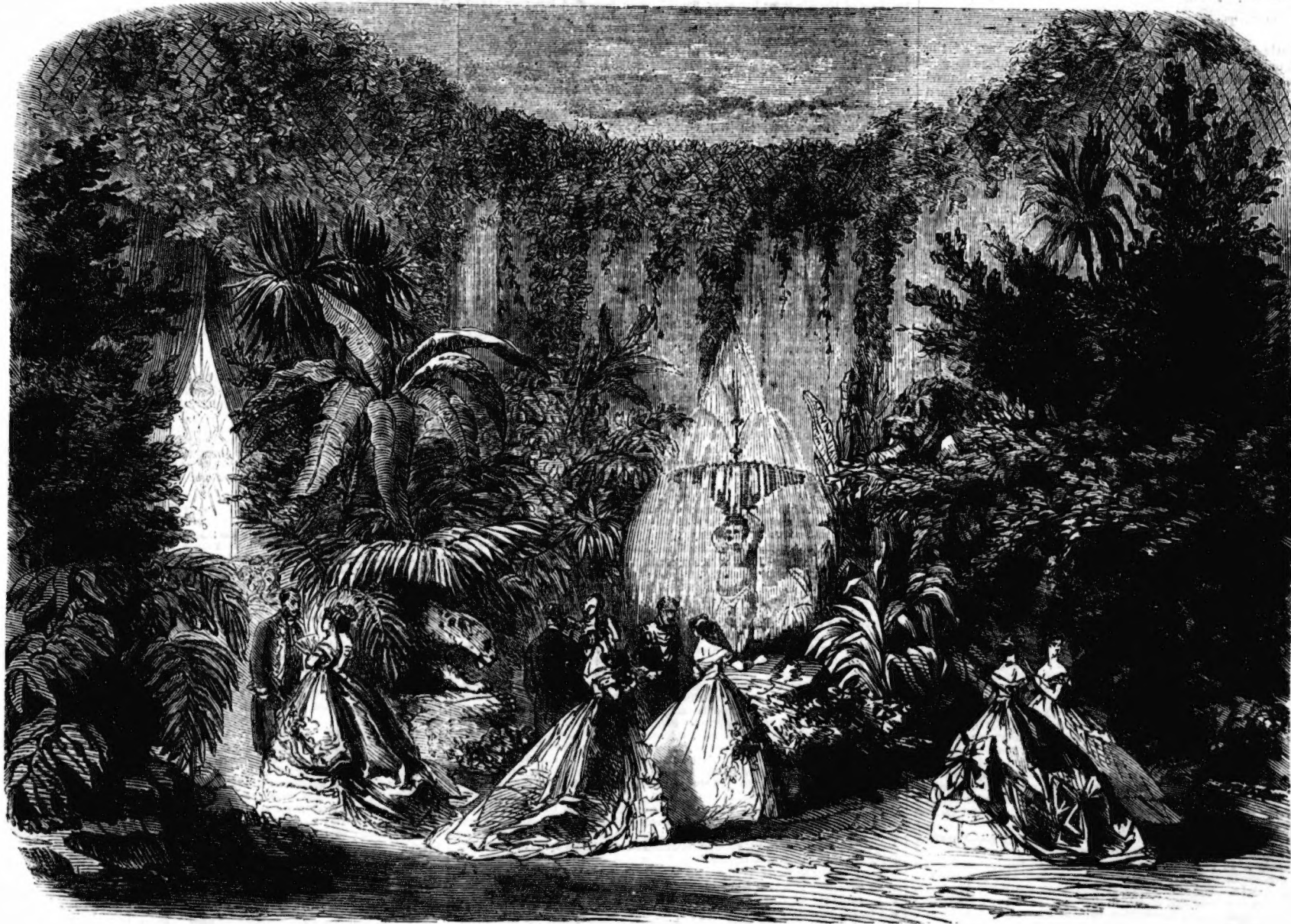
We have already given some account of the funeral of Prince Otho of Italy, Duke of Montferrat, and we are this week able to publish a Portrait of the deceased Prince, whose amiable disposition and benevolent efforts endeared him to his countrymen.

Prince Otho, the fourth son of King Victor Emmanuel, was born on the 11th of July, 1846; but even in infancy his constitution was so delicate that it was evident he could never enjoy robust health or join in those sports to which his Royal father has always been so much attached. He devoted his time, therefore, to those studies which, while they console the invalid, do much to enable a Prince to promote the comfort and happiness of his people. He took little part in public affairs, and his grade in the service was only that of captain in the Royal Navy; but he shone in conversation with his private friends, and few who knew him will forget the lively gentleness of his humour, while the amiability of his manners peculiarly endeared him to his family and to all the Royal household. The Prince resided almost constantly at Genoa, the climate of which was considered most suitable for his health, and it was there that he died, on the night of the 21st of last month.

## THE "UGLY RUSH" TO THE BAR.

It has for years been characteristic of the members of the House of Commons that they conduct themselves in a most disorderly manner when summoned to the bar of the House of Lords to hear a message from the Crown; but the scene at the opening of the present Parliament, on the 6th inst., transcended anything of the kind that had ever been witnessed before.

Up to the hour at which the Commons were summoned, the passage to the Lords from the great central hall had been rigidly guarded by policemen, who stood behind the closed doors. Not even reporters, with tickets for their own gallery, were allowed to pass that way. There was one door—the Peers' entrance—through which all entitled to enter must pass in—if they passed in at all. But when, in obedience to the summons delivered by Black Rod, the Speaker, preceded by Lord Charles Russell and the mace, appeared emerging from his own House, the hitherto closed doors were thrown open, and a scene followed the like of which never was witnessed since Parliament first assembled and Royal speeches were first delivered. On leaving his chair the Speaker proceeded with great dignity, the Chancellor of the Exchequer walking by his side, the Marquis of Hartington and other members of the Cabinet being in his immediate vicinity. For a time, things went pretty well; the procession thus formed had reached the door of the House of Commons and was entering the lobby; but as it was doing so there was a rush from the rear which caused the Speaker to quicken his pace and cry out to Lord Charles to get on. Lord Charles endeavoured to do so, but the mob of Commons received lateral accessions in the persons of hon. gentlemen who had waited about the corridors with the object of getting to the front rank, and who darted out of their retreats with frightful vigour as the rush, for it was no longer a



BALL AT THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF WAR: DECORATIONS IN THE GALLERIES COMMUNICATING WITH THE SALOONS.



procession, came abreast of them. These movements increased the impatience of those behind; and on they drove like a living torrent, till Black Rod, the Sergeant-at-Arms, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the other Cabinet Ministers were borne onwards and sideways, and whirled about in a right honourable and honourable mob. It was as much as Lord Charles Russell could do to keep the mace from falling back over his shoulder and knocking the Speaker's brains out. The right hon. gentleman was all but choked with his own robe—that gorgeous new dress, which could not have cost less than fifty guineas, having been almost torn from his shoulders. Mr. Gladstone, having been driven forcibly from the Speaker's side, and having with difficulty kept himself upon his feet, gave up the struggle, and, getting clear of the surging mass, walked quietly and sadly back to his place in the House. One honourable gentleman was knocked down, and two others leaped over him. The noise they made on entering the Lords sounded something like that which one hears at the gallery entrance of a theatre, when the staircase has been blocked and the door has just been opened to admit the unwashed stream. Mr. Hughes and other gentlemen were thrown violently with their chests against the bar, to the great terror of the occupants of Sir Augustus Clifford's box. The whole affair was anything but creditable; but there were three circumstances to account for it. First, the cardinal fault of want of accommodation outside the House of Lords for any reasonable number of the Commons; next, the five years which have elapsed since the Queen met her assembled Parliament; and, lastly, the fact that there were about 180 gentlemen of the Lower House who had never before been privileged to hear themselves addressed from the throne, and, perhaps, might never be so privileged again.

An hon. member, who was in the midst of the *mélée*, thus describes the scene:—

"Instead of waiting for the 'ballot,' usually taken for the privilege of attending the Speaker on these occasions, I joined a small knot of members who had taken up a position at the entrance to the Lords' corridor, where three policemen barred further progress. After waiting there a little while the additions to our party became very numerous, and at last a vast crowd of members filled up the space behind and forced us, the early comers, into a front row, facing the policemen, and filling up the archway they guarded.

"Retreat was now impossible; otherwise, with an instinctive knowledge of what was to follow, I think I should have attempted it; and there I stood till the pioneer of the 'Black Rod' made a narrow lane for his passage through our dense mass. Taking advantage of a slight confusion which accompanied this operation, I slipped round the pillar and seated myself on a bench on the other, or Lords', side of the arch, and to this manoeuvre I owe the power of describing exactly the scene which ensued at that point. After the delay of a few minutes the procession arrived. Black Rod's pioneer first, then the Mace, and then the Speaker. Up to that point, I believe, all had gone well; but then came a sudden, fierce rush, caused, I presume, by the contest between those who had legitimately followed from the House and those who, like myself, had gone forward for a start, and the procession overflowed its banks at once, and became a disorderly and outrageous mob, brutally struggling for precedence. Reckless of everything except this object, they pressed so closely on the Speaker that their feet became entangled in his robes, bringing his dignified progress to a sudden and most unseemly halt.

"The tableau for the moment was fine, and the scene, if it had possessed any historical or political interest, would have made a splendid addition to the frescoes around. It was the 'ugly rush' spoken of by the prophet Henley. The Speaker, helplessly tethered to the ground, nevertheless bore himself as a Speaker; and, turning on his assailants, flashed back a glance of outraged dignity, of solemn and Jove-like anger, which for the time was not without its grandeur or effect, and a loud cry of 'Order!' arose. Meanwhile, the dignified and venerable figure of the Black Rod was seen feebly defending himself with his back to the wall against which he had been violently hustled. Lord Charles Russell halted and turned back irresolute, apparently debating whether his duties did not require him to employ the mace on the heads of the misdoers, of whom

Those behind cried 'Onward!  
And those before cried 'Back!'

and some little time elapsed before the 'first commoner of the realm' could extricate his trampled robes from their profane tread. "Then the procession was resumed, and, more 'law' being allowed this time to the Speaker, I took advantage of my position and joined its foremost ranks, and all went with comparative safety till we reached the lobby. There another stream seemed to come to join the already brimming river; and my firm belief is that numbers of people not members of the House were stationed there, and joined the procession, as I had done before. Anyhow, though the space was larger, the numbers seemed suddenly to have increased, and I found myself inclosed in a living wall and borne forward with accelerated velocity in the direction of the left-hand doorpost of the entrance to the Upper House. All steering power was gone, and I drifted helplessly on, and finally dashed violently against the obstruction. My hat, acting as a buffer, broke the shock; but I was whirled round and carried sideways into her Majesty's presence, eventually settling against the bar with a thump which seemed to occasion both surprise and alarm to a very pretty woman on the other side of it. There I remained, of course, a fixture till the Queen retired."

Now, as scenes like that described above are not very becoming in the "conscript fathers" of the nation, surely some means might be devised to prevent their recurrence. The ballot for the privilege of accompanying the Speaker should be made a rigid rule, and no members should be permitted, on any consideration, to join the procession, save those who have gained the right to do so; and, to secure attention to this law, a sufficient posse of police should be stationed in the lobbies and corridors. Then, their Lordships of the Upper House might have a little more consideration for the members of the Lower Chamber, and allot a larger space for their accommodation. It may be very silly of hon. gentlemen to crowd like schoolboys to see the show of the Queen opening Parliament; but members, after all, are only men, and likely to be actuated by the same impulses of curiosity as outsiders, and if opportunities are to be afforded for gratifying that curiosity, surely her Majesty's "faithful Commons" have as strong claims to consideration as the "relatives and friends of peers" who usually fill up their Lordships' House on such occasions.

**POST-OFFICE FACTS.**—In England and Wales twenty-seven letters were delivered to every person, on an average, in the year 1864; in London, fifty-one; in Scotland, twenty; in Ireland, nine; in the United Kingdom, as a whole, twenty-three—the total number exceeding 679,000,000. Railway companies sent 720,000 circulars by the post in the year; charitable institutions, 640,000; lottery offices, 169,000; drapers, 2,062,000; "medical men" and dentists, 177,000. 4,865,000 letters passed between this country and the United States and British North America—that is, in both directions; 3,632,000 between this country and India and China; and the following numbers between this country and the other countries named—viz., 2,915,000, Australia; 1,727,000, West Indies, the Pacific, and the Brazils; 600,000, France; 4,463,000, Prussia, Hamburg, and Bremen; 924,000, Belgium; 600,000, Holland; 827,000, Italy; 617,000, Spain. 28,000,000 letters in all passed between this country and foreign countries and the colonies, and 21,500,000 books, papers, and patterns. 95,500,000 books, packets, and newspapers were delivered by post in the United Kingdom, and 625,950 packets were sent by the pattern post. If Ash Wednesday should not cast a shade over the luck of Valentine's Day, our letter-carriers would probably have to deliver on that day nearer 600,000 than 500,000 extra letters.

**BALLET DANCERS.**—A number of ladies, occupying a high social position have formed a society for the express purpose of improving the condition of the ballet dancers. In order to become a member of the institution the dancer is to deposit in the nearest post office savings bank a sum not less than 1s. a fortnight. The committee of ladies, on the other hand, are endeavouring to raise a fund, out of which they propose to pay a percentage upon the deposits equal to and in addition to that allowed by the Government. The members will thus receive double interest on their savings. It is also hoped that the fund will be sufficient to afford extra assistance in the event of sickness or distress. It is therefore proposed by the committee that the lady of the ballet who has outlasted her profession—say at the age of thirty-five—shall receive an allowance for three months, that she may learn one of the few trades that afford employment to women. A book for subscriptions to the "Ballet Benefit Fund" is opened at Messrs. Drummond's.

## OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE organisers of the concert given on Tuesday evening in aid of the funds of University College Hospital showed good taste in confining themselves in their choice of pieces almost entirely to religious music. The performance, whatever may be thought of the intrinsic merits of some of the pieces, must be allowed by everyone to have been eminently interesting. The programme was made up entirely of compositions by M. Gounod, with the single exception of "God Save the Queen," which, oddly enough, was sung between a symphony and an "Ave Verum." The singers were Mme. Lemmens-Sherrington, Mme. Radersdorff, Miss Whytock, Mr. Patey, and Mr. Sims Reeves. Mr. Benedict was the conductor.

Although "Tobias" had been advertised as the great attraction of the evening, this so-called "drama" produced a by no means favourable impression on the audience. Nor has M. Gounod succeeded in characterising his personages by musical means. Old Tobias and Anna, his wife, are equally dull. Young Tobias has naturally more life in him than his aged parents, and there is some expression in the air which he sings on arriving at home—"Father, thine arms about me throw." Perhaps the finest thing in the cantata is the psalm-like air, with chorus, in which the blind Tobias, accompanied by the members of his household, prays for his son's return. There is both simplicity and grandeur in this piece. The miracle which follows soon afterwards cannot, of course, be sung; and the wonder is worked to a short instrumental movement. But neither the quartet which leads up to the orchestral "invocation" nor the air for Tobias alone, which precedes the quartet, are as impressive as the supplication of the old man. "Tobias" was not a decided "success," on Tuesday evening. It had the disadvantage, however, of being preceded by several shorter but much more interesting pieces from M. Gounod's pen. Of these the most successful was the Christmas carol, called "Bethlehem," which was encored. The music of the carol is more pastoral than religious. It suggests sheep and shepherds, but never once the infant Saviour.

M. Gounod's "O salutaris hostia" (air with chorus) is a much finer composition than the carol. The melody is simple and touching, and, as Mr. Sims Reeves sang it on Tuesday evening, admirably expressive. Both the "Ave Verum" and the "O Salutaris" will no doubt be adopted by Mr. Benedict's Vocal Association, which on this occasion formed the great bulk of the chorus.

The first performance of M. Joachim has for some years past been one of the chief events of our musical season. No violinist who has ever appeared in London has succeeded to the same extent in engaging the attention of musicians and of the general public, though M. Joachim has never played what is generally considered the most "popular" violin music of the day. He has, from the beginning, remained true to his classical deities, and has turned a deaf ear to all productions belonging to what, in a true musical sense, may be called the profane style. The concert of Monday evening gave M. Joachim the opportunity of displaying his talent in all its power and variety. In Mozart's quintet in G minor and in Beethoven's duet for violin and pianoforte he was equally admirable. In the duet his associate was Mme. Arabella Goddard, who also played two solo pieces, Handel's fugue in E minor and Mendelssohn's prelude and fugue in the same key: in the latter she was encored with enthusiasm.

Miss Berry-Greening (formerly known as Miss Berry) gave a concert on Saturday evening, at which she was assisted by some of the most distinguished vocal and instrumental performers now in London. The fair bénéficiaire, to whom no style seems unfamiliar, sang several pieces, and was especially successful in the grand air from the last act of "La Fille du Régiment" and in the duet, "Parigi o cara," in which she was joined by Mr. Sims Reeves. Miss Berry-Greening has hitherto appeared only in the concert-room, but we believe that she possesses enough dramatic talent to ensure her success on the stage; at least, she sang on Saturday evening in a very dramatic style, and she has evidently a predilection for operatic morceaux. The concert took place at St. James's Hall.

**NOBLE GIFTS AND BENEFACENCES.**—The following special gifts, for the purchase of the life-boats hereafter named, were presented last year to the National Life-boat Institution:—Holy Island, Lady W., £600; North Sunderland, Mrs. Anstie, £400; Haxley, Eleanor, Duchess of Northumberland, £450; Newbiggin, Miss Hopkinson, £400; Cultercoats, P. Reid, Esq., £400; Tynemouth, collected in Pontefract and Goole, by A. Hale, Esq., and W. Porter, Esq., £200; Sunderland, collected in Derby, by W. Peat, Esq., and others, £480; Bacton, a Lady, per T. Jones Gibb, Esq., £300; Ramsgate, collected in Bradford, by Charles Simon, Esq., ex-Mayor, £400; Kingsdown, William Ferguson, Esq., £300; Shoreham, Miss Robertson, £300; Hayling, Messrs. Leaf, Sons, and Co., £550; Worthing, a Lady (M. W.), £582; Ilfracombe, George Jeremy, Esq., and Mrs. Jeremy, £400; Aberdovey, collected in Berkshire, by Captain Stephens, of Reading, and others, £489 16s. 8d.; Celynny, Mrs. Colonel Vernon, £200; Whitehaven, Miss Leicester, £300; Maryport, Henry Nixon, Esq., £550; Castletown, Commercial Travellers, No. 2, per Messrs. Bishop, Affleck, and others, £262 9s. 11d.; Peterhead and Airbroath, Dundee People's Journal, No. 1, and No. 2, collected by J. Leng, Esq., and W. D. Lattu, Esq., £800; Anstruther, a Lady (H. H.), £600; Courtown, collected in Manchester, by Robert Whitworth, Esq., and others, £300—making a grand total of £9254 6s. 7d. During the past year the following legacies have also been bequeathed to the institution:—Captain Hugh Brown, Kilmarnock, N.B., £100; John T. Roper, Esq., Woolwich, £500; Mrs. Anne Warner, Widcombe, £250; Miss Ann Frances Smith, Greenwich, £50 15s.; Miss Mary Frances Woodburne, Kensington Park Gardens, £300; Wm. Hollins, Esq., Over Wallop, Southampton Dock, £500; Richard Thornton, Esq., Old Swan Wharf, London Bridge, £2000; Mrs. Frances Gates, Leamington Priors, £5; Samuel Horton, Esq., Priors Lee, £100; Mrs. Mary Ruston, Kingston-upon-Hull, £100; Miss Jimima Bennett, Sloane-street, Chelsea, £90; John Jacobson, Esq., Glasgow Dock, Lancaster, £19 19s.; Captain Sykes, R.N., Bolsover-street, Portland-place, £100; and Mrs. Betty Coles, of Tunbridge Wells, £50. During the past twelve months the institution has sent thirty-seven life-boats to the coasts, and the total expense during the same period on its 160 life-boat establishments has amounted to £20,723 14s. 5d. The National Life-boat Institution has become one of the most important benevolent societies in our land, and contributes to the saving every year of about 700 shipwrecked persons, and, could a history of all these noble life-boat services be written, it would probably contain more golden deeds than has ever been culled from any other records. It is therefore to be hoped that all who recognise the sacredness of human life will deem it a duty and even a privilege to help forward the life-boat work—a work which has hitherto been manifestly blessed by Providence, and which has brought relief to many thousands of men who to-day in its absence, instead of being useful members of the community, would have been engulfed in mid-ocean by the tempest, and their wives and children have become widows and orphans.

**PROPOSED DAY OF HUMILIATION FOR THE CATTLE PLAGUE.**—The Archbishop of Canterbury having suggested to the Government that a day should be set apart for humiliation and prayer on account of the cattle plague, Sir George Grey addressed the following letter, on the 26th ult., to his Grace:—"My Lord, I have brought under the consideration of the Cabinet your Grace's letter of the 22nd inst., expressing a hope that, in compliance with requests addressed to your Grace from different parts of the kingdom, her Majesty's Government will advise her Majesty to issue an order appointing a day of national humiliation on account of the continuance of the cattle plague with unabated severity. Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that, except in cases of a very special character, affecting the whole of the United Kingdom, it is inexpedient that the course advised by your Grace should be adopted, involving, as it does, as to the great body of the working people, enforced abstinence from their ordinary labour, and the consequent diminution, to a certain extent, of the means procured by their daily industry for supplying themselves with the necessities of life. Her Majesty's Government feel that the duty of imploring the Divine blessing on the means used for checking the progress of the disease is fully recognised on the part of the nation by the constant use in every church in England of the form of prayer ordered by her Majesty in Council in September last; and they do not think that the nature of the present calamity, notwithstanding the severity of its pressure on some parts of the country, is such as to demand that, in addition to the use of the prayer, a special day of national humiliation should be set apart by authority throughout the United Kingdom."

**A SCOTCH SUPERSTITION.**—No Scotchman (says the Registrar-General of the country) will begin any kind of work on a Saturday if he can possibly avoid it; he fears he should not live to finish it. A Scotchman will not marry on a Saturday; he apprehends that one or other of the parties would not live out the year, or that the marriage would be unfruitful. Except when the last day of the year falls on a Saturday it is the favourite marrying day in Scotland, but the Saturday superstition prevails over the luck of the end of the year. The detailed report for 1862, just issued from the Scottish Registrar-General's office, shows that full a twelfth of all the marriages of the year in Scotland are celebrated on Dec. 31, but if that be Saturday, they take place on the 30th.

## THE GREAT JEWEL ROBBERY IN THE CITY.

MR. WALKER, the jeweller who was plundered some months ago, has brought an action against Mr. Milner, the maker of the celebrated "safe," on an alleged guarantee of its being thief-proof. The following evidence by the principal burglar may be interesting. The case closed by a verdict being given for the defendant, on the ground that there had been no w a ranty.

The convict Caseley is an intelligent young man, who gave his evidence with remarkable clearness and the most amusing coolness. He stated that he had been sentenced to fourteen years' penal servitude, and now came from Millbank to give evidence. On the night of Saturday, the 4th of February, 1865, he and four others went to the shop of the plaintiff, and two of them besides himself went into the house, by the side door under the archway in Sun-court. It was ten minutes past six o'clock in the evening. The three first went into the second floor—the one above the floor over the shop, and they remained there until twenty minutes to eight o'clock, when they received a signal that the foreman had gone. They then went down into the next floor—Sir Charles Crossley's—the one just over the shop. They there opened the safe. For some hours afterwards they remained quiet and did nothing. They remained there until about twelve o'clock at night. At twenty minutes past twelve they began work, and first got into the tailor's shop, and were in it the whole of Sunday morning. At five minutes to three, on the afternoon of Sunday, they got into Mr. Walker's shop. They first got into the back shop from the tailor's room, by cutting away the ceiling and the flooring. One of the men went with witness into Mr. Walker's shop, taking sundry tools, crowbars, and other things. They had to go out again, however, directly, for they received a signal that the police were coming round. Afterwards they had another signal to go back into the shop. They then tested the safe to see whether they could break it open "under the disadvantages under which we were labouring." "Testing" it meant trying it with a little wedge to see if it would be likely to give way. They found that it held the wedge—whereas, if it was able to resist pressure the wedge would fly off, and so they found it would answer. They found that they must kneel down in order not to be seen by the police, who were round every nine minutes. "They did their duty," said the witness; "no blame attaches to them. Every time they came round I had a signal, and had to kneel down to avoid being seen by the police, and had to stop our work. At last we found the safe 'give,' which we were rather surprised at, as a good safe ought not to have yielded so soon. We then knew that we could get the safe open, and not long after we had it open. It did not take above thirty-five minutes, and out of that time several minutes should be deducted for the time we lost when the police came round. At a quarter to four we were up in Sir Charles Crossley's office washing our hands. We had only to use two instruments, though we had others with us. We thought it one of Tann's safes; they are easier than Milner's, and Griffiths' are easier than Tann's. We were miles away at twenty minutes to five."

Cross-examined: You have had some experience in opening safes?—Yes, unhappily, I have. We have experimented on Milner's safes before. It took seven hours before it gave at all, and we then tried what we call "unlawful" means—that is, tools we could not use in a burglary. Another took six hours to open. Two of us purchased two of Milner's safes to experimentise upon, and we succeeded upon one after seven hours, and then by unlawful means—that is, with tools which could not be used without detection, as they made a noise. They were bars which had to be knocked in. That was returning back to old means—quite the "old style." The other safe was opened in six hours, with the best sort of "lawful burglars' tools," including an iron bar 5 ft. long, jointed in several pieces so as to be carried in a small case. That was the only thing that could open one of Milner's best safes. The safe could not be opened with a wedge, which was only used for testing. A good safe would send a wedge out; a bad one let it remain in, and that showed it could be opened. The wedge remained in this safe (the one in question), and they then saw it could be opened when the wedge held, then a bar was put in to release the wedge, and then another wedge, a little larger, to release the bar, and then another and larger bar to release the wedge. These bars, however, would not open the safe; they were only used to get what we call the "alderman" in. That is a "head bar," which would open any safe. The smaller bars were called "citizens." These names were used to avoid the real words; it would not do to be heard in the streets talking of crowbars. In this case the wedges only went in two or three times, the bars eight or nine times. In the other instances the "alderman" was used, which was able to open any safe made, unless there was a slight alteration. But to this safe the "alderman" was not used; it was not required. While he worked one of his "mates" was sitting up stairs in Sir Charles Crossley's arm-chair to give signals by a string, corresponding with the two men outside. One was to see if either Mr. Walker or any of his people came back. The other gave notice when the police were coming by, walking past the shop. The other of the two men with him was half way through the hole in the floor handing him tools. I did the work. I knew the whole family of the Walkers; I had been looking after them seven weeks, night and morning. I had been in Sir Charles Crossley's office several times before, and opened his safe and found £28 in it, which we would not take, as we did not want to rob Sir Charles. We did so on the night of this burglary, lest he should laugh at us, and so we took the tailor's clothes for the same reason, not for the value of them. Some of the men with me were mere "interlopers"—men called in on an emergency.

Re-examined: The witness said if this safe had been as good as the other safes of Milner's, they could never have opened it without being discovered. They were agreeably surprised to find the safe so easy to open; they did not expect it. They concocted the burglary because they knew that all through the month of January the police did not look through the shutter-holes; but on this night the policeman did his duty, and the result was that he had to work kneeling. The posture of kneeling and the constant interruptions from the police made it, of course, more difficult, yet it was all over in about half an hour. He could undertake, without interruption and standing up, to open this safe in a quarter of an hour. The "alderman" would do it at once.

In answer to the Lord Chief Justice, the witness said he had been brought up as a sign-painter, not as a mechanic; but he could make a better safe, he said, than any safe now made, and he could open any safe that was made.

The Lord Chief Justice—It is a pity you did not turn your talents to better account.

The convict (with great quickness)—It is a pity the police did not let me. It is impossible to convey an idea of the readiness, quickness, clearness, and coolness of the man's replies. His examination was listened to by a crowded audience and a large number of the Bar with the deepest interest, and the sentiment universally expressed was, "What a pity such a man should have been a thief! He could have attained success in any walk in life." He was evidently a man of superior abilities, and originally, one would say, with good qualities of character.

**THE JAMAICA COMMISSION.**—The Colonial Legislature was convened by Sir Henry Storks a few days after his Excellency assumed the duties of his new office, and at once passed a bill authorising the Commissioners to take evidence on oath. Mr. Russell Gurney and Mr. J. B. Maule having arrived in Jamaica, the proceedings of the Royal Commission were formally opened on the 23rd ult., in the Legislative Council Chamber. Sir Henry Storks delivered a brief speech, declaring the Commission open. From this it appears that the inquiry will be one of the fullest and most searching character, and that all persons who can throw any light upon recent events will be eligible for examination.

**THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.**—One in every three members of the House of Commons has a namesake in the House. There are in the House five Russells, five Bruces, five Hamiltons; and there are four Barings, four Egertons, and four Peels. These six names were the six most frequently in the last Parliament also; they had twenty-five members then, and they have twenty-seven now. There are also fourteen surnames, each of which is borne by three members—namely, Cavendish, Dundas, Grosvenor, King, Leslie (with Waldegrave-Leslie), Lindsay, Lowther, Miller, Rothschild, Seymour, Smith, Stanley, Wynn (or Wynne), and Young. This is a larger number of triplets than the last Parliament had. There are about seventy other members who have one colleague in the House of the same surname. The names most common out of doors are not the names most common in Parliament. The three names most frequent in England and Wales, taken together, are Smith, Jones, and Williams. The hand of fate was heavy upon the Smiths at the general election of 1865; there were eight of them in the last Parliament, and there are only three in this; and only three members bear the name either of Williams or Jones—two of Williams and one of Jones.

**EXTRAORDINARY DISCOVERY.**—Workmen employed at Berkeswell Rectory, in taking up the hearthstone in the servants' hall prior to required alterations, have found a human skeleton underneath the stone. It appeared to be of full size, and lay with the face side downwards, the arms braced up on the back. A sandstone was placed on the head, and another sandstone on the feet. The bones were not more than four feet from the fire-grate. Near the above lay the remains of another skull bone, under the same stone. The bones were very much decayed from the length of time they had lain there, so much so that on removing them they fell to pieces, and most of them crumbled to dust.

**CUTTING TELEGRAPH WIRES.**—About three o'clock on Tuesday morning some miscreants succeeded in cutting the telegraph wires connecting Dublin with the south of Ireland. The outrage was committed between Wood Quay and Usher's Quay, and the mode of its perpetration appears to have been designed and matured with some care. Several parties must have engaged in bringing their strength to bear in order to break the wires, for the pole nearest to where they eventually broke was considerably broken and damaged, and had to be replaced. Whatever the object of such an act, it was defeated, for the telegraphic communication with the south of Ireland was maintained, the only inconvenience arising being the delay experienced in sending messages for transmission from the central office to the King's-bridge terminus.



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